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DANTE  
AND  
COLLECTED VERSE

BY  
GEORGE LANSING RAYMOND



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DANTE.







## CHARACTERS.

- DANTE (Alighieri) The Great Italian Poet.
- (Guido) CAVALCANTI A Poet and Patron of Dante, about ten years older than he; a Leader of the White Faction.
- CINO (a Pistoja) A Poet and Friend of Dante, but somewhat younger than he; a Member of the White Faction.
- DINO (Frescobaldi) A Poet and Friend of Dante, about the same age as he; a Member of the White Faction.
- (Cosmo) DONATI The Leader of the Black Faction, and Dante's Enemy.
- SIMONE (Donati) Son of Cosmo Donati, and Dante's Enemy.
- (Brunetto) LATINI An aged Teacher of Florence, much respected by Dante and his Friends.
- BEATRICE (Portina) A Young Maiden, greatly beloved by Dante.
- GEMMA (Donati) A Young Maiden, Niece of Cosmo Donati, who became Dante's Wife.
- BACCHINA A Young Maiden, a companion of Beatrice and Gemma.

MARQUIS OF MALASPINA in Lunigiana, a Protector of  
Dante in exile.

WAITRESS, PRIEST, MONK, MESSENGERS, ATTENDANTS,  
CHAPERON, YOUNG MEN, MAIDENS, AND ADHERENTS  
of the White and Black Factions.

Place and Time, Florence and Italy in the Fourteenth  
Century.

All the men in the play who are not ecclesiastics  
wear belts from which hang scabbards holding swords.

---

*A poet like a poem is a product.*

DANTE, I. AND VI.

*All the thoughts  
That flood the world spring up from single souls;  
And some of these may bless it most when made  
To spend their lives interpreting themselves.*

IDEM II.

## DANTE.

---

### OPENING TABLEAU.

*The Piazza di Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. Backing is the Church of Santa Croce. In front of it are the beginnings of a Pedestal. On the highest part of this, accompanied by others below her, with whom she is playing, is a young girl (BEATRICE) dressed in a dark crimson frock. Below, on the pavement gazing at her, stands a schoolboy (DANTE), who seems to have been suddenly arrested and charmed by her appearance.<sup>1</sup>*

### ACT FIRST.

SCENE:—*The Piazza di Santa Croce in Florence, arranged for a Fête, as on St. John's Day, when, to quote from Federn's Dante, "the young men, clad in white, led by the Signor d'Amour, went singing and dancing up the street of Santa Felicita; and women and girls, . . . in wreaths of flowers, partook in the festivities; and music and song and ringing bells*

*filled the air with joyful sounds."* Backing at the Right, is a bench, at the Left, half-way to the Front, is a booth arranged for the fête. In it is a table on which are flowers, apparently for sale, also at least one bottle of wine and three glasses. Entrances at the Right Front and Upper, and at the Left Front and Upper. The Curtain, as it rises, reveals, at the Back Center, the aged Teacher LATINI, surrounded by three young men,—CAVALCANTI, about thirty years of age, and CINO and DINO, about twenty. The three hold in their hands pencils and manuscripts which can be easily carried in their pockets.<sup>2</sup> Behind the table, stands a matron serving as a Waitress in the fête.

LATINI. A poet like a poem is a product.

CINO. I thought him born, not made.

LATINI. And why not both?

Let nature frame a man to feel. He thinks  
Of what he feels. He feels what touches him.  
The substance of his thought and feeling then  
Is what experience has brought near to him.

CINO. But men term youth poetic.

LATINI. Rightly too.

The freshest fires are brightest. But our  
thoughts,

How e'er they burn and melt, not often flow  
 To moulds of nature's rarest imagery,  
 Till life has been well sought to find and store  
 it.

CINO. Then youth should wait for age, and grow  
 apace,  
 And try no more.

LATINI. O no; it is our trying  
 That turns the latch-key of experience,  
 Whose doors swing inward quite as oft as  
 outward.

*Enter—Left Upper—Several Pairs of dancing*  
 YOUNG MEN and MAIDENS. *They*  
*sing:*

How green the grove and blue the sky!  
 How gold and red the hedges!  
 How thrills the breeze with trills on high,  
 That breathe the season's pledges!  
 For, O, the spring, in all its prime,  
 Has brought the bird its mating-time.

*Enter—Right Upper—DANTE.*

*Exeunt—Right Front—DANCERS.*

*Enter—Left Upper—GEMMA and BACCHINA,*  
*and between them BEATRICE.<sup>3</sup> The*  
*three walk arm in arm, and exchange*

*bows with the Gentlemen, BEATRICE taking especial notice of DANTE.*

CINO (*to DINO, as he looks toward the three*).

A trinity appropriate for St. John's Day!

DINO. The poet's graces!

CINO (*moving toward the three*).

And the poet's models.

They bring us dies, when our ideas glow,

To leave their impress and remain ideals.

DANTE, *upon seeing BEATRICE, seems greatly embarrassed, and sits apart by himself on the Bench alternately writing in a manuscript that he holds, and listening to the conversation of the others.*<sup>7</sup>

BEATRICE (*to LATINI*). We come to tender you our morning greeting.

CAVALCANTI (*to DINO*). Nor could the tender come more tenderly.

LATINI (*shaking hands with the three young women*). I thank you.

BACCHINA (*turning to DINO*). Will you recommend me now?

DINO. For what?

BACCHINA. Why, if a king's touch cure king's evil,

A master's touch should cure the master's evil.

DINO. And what is that?

BACCHINA (*looking toward LATINI*). All evil in  
the world,

To him, is lack of culture.

DINO. So you seek  
To come in touch with him?

BACCHINA (*laughingly*). And with his pupils.  
(*Giving her hand to DINO. Both join in the  
dance that follows.*)

*Enter—Right Upper—Pairs of Dancing YOUNG  
MEN and MAIDENS. They Sing:*

How keen the glance, and bright the flush!

How sense the soul resembles!

How throbs the heart that heed would hush

Through lips where music trembles!

For, O, the spring of round and rhyme

Has brought mankind its mating-time!

*Exeunt—Left Front—DANCERS.*

*Enter—Left Upper—DONATI.*

CINO and DINO talk with GEMMA and BACCHINA.

CAVALCANTI (*to BEATRICE*). You heard what

Cino said. It all was true.

The hands of beauty when they touch and  
thrill us

All leave their imprint on ideas, and thus

We get ideals.

BEATRICE (*laughingly*). You poets wing your  
words

Without the least conception where they wend,  
Like birds with broken feet that keep on  
flying

From simple inability to perch.

DONATI. Ha, ha!

CAVALCANTI (*to DONATI*). You heard her then?

DONATI. I overheard.

CAVALCANTI (*aside to DINO*).

Is always overing something, if he can be.

DONATI (*to BEATRICE*). Well said, Miss Be-  
atrice! These flighty minds

That cut connection with the world's demands  
Are sure to have a limping time of it,  
If ever they get down to useful work.

(*BEATRICE laughs and bows, then with  
CINO joins GEMMA and BACCHINA at  
the Left where all seem to be helping the  
Matron who has charge of the Table.  
DINO sits on the Bench beside DANTE.  
They exchange, and, apparently, in a  
friendly way, criticise each other's  
writings*).<sup>4</sup>

CAVALCANTI (*replying to DONATI's last remark*).

They may prove useful without getting down  
As far as—<sup>5</sup>

DONATI. Useful as the splash and spray  
Above the waterfall that works my mill.



CAVALCANTI. They play a necessary part.

DONATI. You own  
They play?

CAVALCANTI. And play is necessary too.  
Our thoughts are children that must play to  
grow.

DONATI. Say children that when called to work  
must whine.

These brains that bellow so about their pains,  
Prove mainly their own lack of brawn to bear  
them.

CAVALCANTI. At least, they lead a peaceful life,  
not so?—

And that is better than a life of brawls.

DONATI. Who lead a life of brawls?

CAVALCANTI. I did not say;  
But many a night in Florence is termed black.

DONATI. And many a coward's face is well  
termed white.

CAVALCANTI (*drawing his sword, which DONATI  
also does*).

Now by my sword!

CINO. Nay, nay; but by your sense.  
What fevers both of you is no disease  
That can be cured by surgery.

CAVALCANTI. By what then?

CINO (*pointing to the table, and rapidly filling three glasses from the bottle*).

By stimulants. Accurse to cutting down,  
When one can gulp down! Save your health  
for me,  
And, while you sheathe your swords, pledge  
gratitude

For such delicious ways of sheathing spirits.

(DONATI and CAVALCANTI *sheathe their swords and drink with CINO.*)

*Exeunt—Left Upper—CAVALCANTI, DONATI, and CINO with glasses in hand, followed by the Waitress carrying the bottle.*

(DINO, *when he sees them, excusing himself to DANTE, rises and follows them.*)

*Exit—Left Upper—DINO.*

GEMMA (*to BEATRICE, looking toward the Left*).  
Ha, ha!

BEATRICE. What set you laughing?

GEMMA. Why, to think  
My uncle's words could turn a poet's thought  
Out of his own conceit—humph!—long enough  
To take in the conception of another.

BEATRICE. You like not poets then?

BACCHINA. They like not her.

GEMMA. They might, if they could see me.  
What they see

Is never in the thing at which they look;  
But, like a halo when it rings the moon,  
All in the clouds, and drawn there by them-  
selves.

BEATRICE. Break through the halo, you might  
find them out.

BACCHINA. Or else be found out by them.

GEMMA. That is it;  
And by-and-by come tumbling from the  
hights  
Where they, not we, have put us,—in a realm  
Where pebbles all seem palaces, and mounds  
all mounts,  
And clouds all continents, and moons have  
faces,  
And all the littlest stars that prick the sky  
Are spear-points of some huge hobgoblin.

BEATRICE. To think things larger may enlarge  
one's thought.

GEMMA. To think things true when false may  
prove all false.

BEATRICE. Who think the poets' fancies true?  
Their brains,  
Like helmets when their metal is the best,  
Receive the light of life and flash it back.  
None take the flash for fire.

GEMMA. I see you like  
A fancy, flashing fellow!—I the grave  
And thoughtful.

BEATRICE. Fancy is the flower of thought.  
The more of life there is, the more of flower:  
The more of thought there is, the more of  
fancy.

A bear, you know, has hair upon his cheek,  
And growls, and, now and then, stands up and  
hugs.

I like men who can prove themselves no brutes.

(DANTE *sits staring at* BEATRICE.)

*Enter—Left Upper—DONATI.*

DONATI (*noticing DANTE and addressing him*).

Why, Dante, you here?<sup>6</sup>

DANTE (*rising in embarrassment*). Yes.

DONATI (*shaking hands with DANTE*). Good  
day.

GEMMA (*aside to* BEATRICE *and* BACCHINA).

His "yes"

Outsnubs the backset of a tutor's "no,"—

Forbids all further effort at expression.

DONATI (*to* DANTE *and gesturing toward the*  
YOUNG WOMEN).

You know these ladies, do you not?

DANTE (*bowing awkwardly*). Yes, yes.<sup>7</sup>

DONATI. What writing is it that you hold in hand?

(DANTE closes his manuscript, and puts it inside his cloak.)

A secret?

DANTE (*bowing awkwardly*). Yes.

*Exit—Left Upper—DONATI, laughing.*

*Enter—Right Upper—CINO.*

(CINO and DANTE sit on the Bench and exchange writings.<sup>4</sup>)

GEMMA (*to YOUNG WOMEN at the Left, and referring to DANTE'S manuscript.*)

His own child, probably!

It flies to cover so much like himself.

He is a very interesting man.

BEATRICE. You think so?

GEMMA. To himself. When all one's eyes

And ears are turned like his on his own person,  
He bears about both audience and actor.

*Enter—Left Upper—Several Pairs of Dancing YOUNG MEN and MAIDENS. They sing:*

How framed in grace and phrased in song,  
How homed in rapture real,  
How won to worth from earth and wrong  
Is love when once ideal!

For, O, the spring of life sublime  
Has brought the spirit's mating-time!

*Exeunt—Right Front—DANCERS.*

*Enter—Left Front—CAVALCANTI.*

CAVALCANTI (*to BEATRICE*). My gentle maid,  
Miss Beatrice, not dancing?

BEATRICE. Not now, rough master Cavalcanti.

CAVALCANTI. Oh!

BEATRICE. Oh?—We must speak as we are  
spoken to;

And if I be a maid and gentle also

You ought to be my master and be rough.

CAVALCANTI. Be rough?—Oh, never. I leave  
that to Dante.

BEATRICE. I should think so!

CAVALCANTI. Wait, Miss Beatrice.

A man may double up his fist and frown,

And make fiend-faces merely at himself.

BEATRICE. Why so?

CAVALCANTI. Because that self asserts itself;

And he keeps fighting it to keep it down.

BEATRICE. That self must then be very strong.

CAVALCANTI. It is—

In Dante.

BEATRICE. Humph!—Is that what troubles  
him?

*Enter—Right Upper—DINO.*

CINO *rises, leaves DANTE, and goes to meet DINO, where standing at the Right they also seem to criticise each other's manuscripts.*<sup>4</sup>

CAVALCANTI. It is with you. You have such awful eyes.

They hush him so his inward soul stops thinking;

And then his outward mien plays pedagogue  
And whips himself to make himself behave.

BEATRICE. A very strange man!

CAVALCANTI. You should not say that.  
Just think how hot he must be in his heart  
To make him warp and shrink up as he  
does

When you come near.

BEATRICE. He does not act that way  
With others?

CAVALCANTI. No.

BEATRICE. Some people act that way  
With cats. Kind souls then shoo these off.

BEATRICE *joins GEMMA and BACCHINA, and, presently,*

*Exeunt—Left Front—GEMMA, BEATRICE, and BACCHINA.*

DINO (*looking at the YOUNG WOMEN, to CINO*).

A poet has to pose, to prose himself  
Sufficiently for some companionship.

CINO. To one who wed her, she would prove  
to be

A pretty but a pert Lupatto-dog,  
And snarl at all who did not master her.

DINO (*looking sharply at DANTE*).

But why does Dante gaze at Gemma so?  
Finds her inspiring?—I would rather risk,  
Without a disenchanting yell or yelp,  
Extracting teeth than thought from such a  
mouth.

*Exeunt—Right Front—CINO and DINO.*

DANTE (*rising and speaking to CAVALCANTI,  
who has approached him*).

Say, Cavalcanti, did you hear those words?—  
“Why does he gaze at Gemma?”—did you  
hear?

Say, Cavalcanti, did you hear?—“at Gemma”?  
They must imagine—<sup>8</sup>

CAVALCANTI. Yes, they must imagine.

They never could have seen it with their eyes.

DANTE. Seen what?

CAVALCANTI. Now, Dante, I have made no  
claim

To be your soul's confessor; but you know



That I have guessed to whom you wrote your  
verses;

And you have not denied it.—Was it Gemma?

DANTE. The next<sup>c</sup> time that men watch me,  
they shall think so.<sup>8</sup>

CAVALCANTI. And why?

DANTE. No doubt, no thought! What men  
conceive

They comprehend, they cease to guess about.

CAVALCANTI. Would you deceive them?

DANTE. What men have no right  
To know, one has no right to let them know.  
Because my soulless will has made me brute,  
And kept me staring like a pointer-cur  
As if to turn to prey the very one  
I most revere, must then my voice, forsooth,  
Bark out an insult in the same direction?

CAVALCANTI. I did not say that, boy; but it  
were strange

To see you start to play the very game  
That you blame me for.

DANTE. Nay, I should not say  
My love sought more than one.

CAVALCANTI. Nor I, you know—  
Were it not true.

DANTE. Oh, fickle Cavalcanti!

CAVALCANTI. Your humming bees may sip the  
sweets they need

From every flower; and why not humming  
poets?

DANTE. They were not made to sting, nor  
souls for stinging.

The poets are not lesser men but greater;  
And so should find unworthy of themselves  
A word or deed that makes them seem less  
worthy.

A man should court but one, and marry  
her.

CAVALCANTI. And mar the lives of all he does  
not marry?

DANTE. Nay, nay; be true to one, and let the  
church—

CAVALCANTI. The church can but confirm a  
fact that is,—<sup>9</sup>

A love that lives already in the soul.  
Not outside hands, though reaching down  
from heaven,

Can push inside of it what is not there,  
Nor keep aught inside, would it then pass  
out.

You deem it wise or good, humane or Godly,  
To doom a boy for one mistake in mating  
To everlasting punishment on earth?

*Enter—Left Front—*GEMMA.

Ah, Mistress Gemma, Master Dante here  
Was looking at you, so that I rebuked him.

GEMMA. Was looking—and at what?

CAVALCANTI. Why, I should say  
Your ribbons—things that he could tie to.

DANTE. Oh!

CAVALCANTI. But that was what we just were  
talking of,—

A something on the earth, and it wears ribbons,  
That one can tie to.

GEMMA. Making free, I think,  
With my own ribbons!

CAVALCANTI. No, no; making them  
So they would not be free.

GEMMA. Yes, they might choke me.

DANTE. And what a pity that would be!

GEMMA. Why so?

DANTE. These choking throats make faces red.

GEMMA. Make red?

DANTE. Yes; yours I never yet saw *read*. It  
seemed

A readless riddle.

GEMMA. It could riddle you.

DANTE. Oh, no; you would not judge enough  
was in me

To justify the jog. Why tap a void?

*Enter—Right Front—*BEATRICE.

CAVALCANTI *goes to her.* DANTE, *standing at the Left with his back to the Right, does not see her.*

GEMMA (*to DANTE*). You may be right,—more right than you suppose.

DANTE. More right than I suppose?—It is not often

One does me so much honor.

*(They continue talking at the Left.)*

BEATRICE (*to CAVALCANTI, while she stands at the Right looking at DANTE*).

Yes, I read

The song you say that Dante wrote about me.  
But were he truthful, did he feel it all,  
It were but natural for him to speak  
To me.

CAVALCANTI. He is an artist.

BEATRICE. What of that?

CAVALCANTI. You know there were no art,  
were there no forms

Of nature in which art could frame its tribute.  
But many an artist, for this reason, fears  
To emphasize the part he finds in nature  
Lest it outdo the part he finds in self;  
So often that which seems most natural  
The one thing is that he will not let seem so.

BEATRICE (*looking toward GEMMA*).

How smitten he is with her! <sup>18</sup>

CAVALCANTI. Whom—with Gemma?

BEATRICE. Of course.

CAVALCANTI. You think so?

BEATRICE. See him hold  
her hand.

CAVALCANTI. If your hand were where hers is,  
I believe  
His own would tremble so he could but drop  
it.

GEMMA (*to DANTE, while he takes her hand as if  
to bid good-bye*).

But had I no imagination?

DANTE. Then,  
I could not see my image in you, could I?  
And if—to quote you—I but think of self,  
You could not make me think of anything.

GEMMA. I could not help you much then?

*Exit—Right Front—BEATRICE.*

DANTE. No; not if  
Myself be what I think.

(GEMMA and DANTE bow to each other.)

*Exit—Left Front—GEMMA.*

(DANTE takes his manuscript from his pocket, and  
begins to write.)

CAVALCANTI (*approaching, and laying his hand on DANTE'S shoulder*).

What are you doing?

DANTE. Am writing.

CAVALCANTI. Yes, I saw that.—Writing what?

DANTE. What comes to me.<sup>10</sup>

CAVALCANTI (*with a gesture toward the Left Front*).

From her?

DANTE. Yes, partly so; And partly from myself.

CAVALCANTI. You write it down To save it?

DANTE. Yes, and save myself. You know That writing is my mission.<sup>10</sup>

CAVALCANTI. What was that Which she suggested?

DANTE (*after hesitating a moment*). Why some minds that try

To be in touch with ours but tickle them;  
Or vex an itching that can merely fret us.

Withal, too, they but scratch the brain's outside;

And then, as if they took the hair for thought,  
Exhibit this, when tossed and puffed, as proving

How they themselves have thus our brain developed.

CAVALCANTI (*laughing heartily, then taking from his pocket a manuscript poem*).

No touch like that, though, led you to write this,<sup>11</sup>

Why is it, boy, you hold your love so secret?

DANTE. Had you a glimpse of God like no one else's

You would not speak of it?

CAVALCANTI. Why not?

DANTE. It might  
Subject Him to the insult—might it not?—  
Of human doubt?

CAVALCANTI. You are a strange soul, Dante.

DANTE. You think my verses good?

CAVALCANTI. Both good and bad.

DANTE. Why bad?

CAVALCANTI. Oh, not so fierce! Not you are bad;

And not your verses when they come from you.

DANTE. From whom else could they come?

CAVALCANTI. I seem to hear  
The echoes through them of your masters.

DANTE. Good ones!

CAVALCANTI. Good masters give us methods  
but not models.





To him who reads an inward consciousness  
Of oneness with the spirit that indites them,  
And its own oneness with the loftiest spirit.

DANTE. The poet's tool is his poetic tongue.

CAVALCANTI. 'Tis not the tongue that makes  
the bell ring sweet;

It is the metal of the bell itself.

*Enter—Right Front—MESSENGER.*

(to MESSENGER.)

Good day. You seem excited.

MESSENGER.

Yes, I am.

Will never fate decree a time of rest  
For Florence?

CAVALCANTI. Not while wide awake! What  
now?

MESSENGER. A courier has just come speeding  
in.

He says the Ghibellines take arms again,<sup>13</sup>  
Have fresh recruits enlisted at Arezzo,  
Have fortified the castle at Caprona,  
And gather now in force at Campaldino.

DANTE. And we do nothing?

MESSENGER.

Yes, Donati's Blacks

Like flocks of feeding crows we pelt with pebbles

Are flying all to saddle.

DANTE.

We should follow.

CAVALCANTI. And follow him?—no, no.<sup>5</sup>

DANTE. Not follow him?—  
Not that great fighter?

CAVALCANTI. What?—you call him  
great?—

Mere bluffer of some baby brawls in Florence?  
The flimsiest nerve can fret to feel a flea.

DANTE. But those who fight when no one needs  
to fight—

CAVALCANTI. Are foes to public order.<sup>16</sup> Why,  
you seem

To deem all people patriots like yourself.

A little rill just starting from a spring

Could not be quite so gushing fresh as you are!

I love you, boy; but when the rill has rubbed

A little more of soil from both its banks

'T will have more substance if not quite

So much transparency.

*Enter—Left Upper—*BEATRICE, GEMMA, and  
BACCHINA.

*Unseen by DANTE, they busy themselves with  
the flowers on the table.*

DANTE. Yet, Cavalcanti,  
There is but one thing now for us to do.

Do two things, and we do the thing they  
plan,—

To fight both Black and White, and each time  
half

Our full defence. Now who remembers faction  
Forgets his Florence.

CAVALCANTI. True!—and you would  
fight?

DANTE. For right to serve the Church and  
Italy?—

Fight those whose flags all fly to signal  
traitors?—

Fight those who all, like base train-bearers,  
come

To smother down the freedom of the city  
Beneath an emperor's cloak whose utmost  
edge

Is fringed with bleeding spears?—Were I a  
moth

In a rug their crowd came trampling, I should  
fight—

Ay, with my mouth, too, as you seem to ask—  
And keep on fighting there, until I wrought  
My way to something that could not be tram-  
pled.

CAVALCANTI. All right, boy, you shall have  
your chance. We go.

*Exeunt—Right Front—*CAVALCANTI, DANTE, and  
MESSENGER.

*Enter—Left Front—LATINI, CINO, and DINO.*  
 BEATRICE (*referring to DANTE'S words that all  
 have evidently overheard*).

And that is Dante!

BEATRICE, GEMMA, and BACCHINA *come toward  
 the Left Front.*

LATINI. Yes, the actual Dante.

BEATRICE. His words and ways have seemed  
 so void of grace,  
 To say not grit!

LATINI. In temperaments like his  
 The form is but the signal of the spirit.  
 We never judge a flag by gawky flops  
 Against a wind-forsaken pole; but by  
 Its flying when it feels the breath of heaven.

BEATRICE. He seemed a woman; now he seems  
 all man.

LATINI. And both are fit in one ordained to be  
 A representative of all things human.  
 If he by nature be a poet, then  
 He should by nature be in substance that  
 Which art demands of him in semblance.

DINO. Cino,  
 We should go home.

CINO. What for?

DINO. To put on kilts,  
 And show ourselves half women.

LATINI. Nay, without that,  
My Dino, you can prove your womanhood;  
For who but women take all words to heart,  
And think each point we make must point  
toward them?

*Exeunt—Right Front—LATINI, CINO, and DINO.*

GEMMA. He may be right; but men half done,  
like eggs  
Half boiled, are very soft. I much prefer  
To have them hard.

BACCHINA. How strange!

GEMMA. Why strange?

BACCHINA. Because

I thought we always liked our opposites.<sup>14</sup>

BEATRICE. You mean?

GEMMA. Ay, you do well to call her  
mean.

If when we walk, we bring our weeds with us,  
We cannot hope our air to smell of roses.

BACCHINA. Aha! Humph!—That explains it!

GEMMA. What?

BACCHINA. The way

You take in breath (*tossing up her head and  
nose*).

GEMMA. Look up, not down, eh?—I  
Would rather snatch at birds than dig for  
worms.

BACCHINA. Have pity, Gemma! Shell your thoughts before  
 You fling them at us—are so hard to crack!  
 You surely would not have them crack our skulls?

GEMMA. Crack moulds of jelly! Your skulls were more soft  
 Than that to be indented by a Dante.

*Enter—Right Upper—CAVALCANTI and DANTE.*

*The YOUNG WOMEN are at the Left, and do not notice their hearers.*

BEATRICE. A steed we drive, a stream that floods its banks,  
 Has not less force because its gait is gentle.  
 And you, you heard his call a moment since  
 To Cavalcanti who behind him leads  
 The half of Florence! 'T was a call as brave  
 As ever yet were eagles', when their beaks  
 Tear out the intruder's heart, though twice their size,  
 Who comes to steal the young within their nests.

*While BEATRICE is speaking DANTE takes out his manuscript and writes.*

*Exeunt—Left Front—BACCHINA, GEMMA, and BEATRICE.*

DANTE (*to CAVALCANTI, referring to BEATRICE'S words*).

Ah, Cavalcanti, should my sword not save  
The soul within me, when the strife comes on,  
No welcome could await in realms beyond  
So sweet, so sacred, as I just have heard!<sup>15</sup>

CAVALCANTI. Stay here, boy, stay! To make a  
worthy fight,

A man should put his heart in what he does.  
Your heart is lost. It will be left behind you.

DANTE. There, there, again, you will not under-  
stand me.

CAVALCANTI. Now Dante!

DANTE. Yes, you think my heart would stay  
When she it is has flung it toward the fight.  
What love I have, inspires me in my soul;  
And, like the soul, it must express itself  
Through every fibre binding me to life;  
And like the soul, too, I believe it comes  
From some far realm divine to make divine  
Myself, my world, and all that dwell in it.  
A man who feels like this, and would not fight  
For church and state and home, would be a  
devil.

CAVALCANTI. And how long, think you, in a  
world like ours,  
That you can feel like this?

DANTE. As long as love  
Like what I have inspires me.

CAVALCANTI. Should it fail?

DANTE. Then you nor anyone could longer find  
In me a friend. All any life is worth  
Lies in its possibilities of love.

CAVALCANTI. But were love's object lost?—

DANTE. One cannot lose  
What is eternal. Hearts must always keep,  
If not their love, what love has made of them.

*Enter—Left Upper—The YOUNG MEN and MAIDENS who were the Dancers in the earlier part of this Act; but the MEN are equipped for battle and walk seriously and the MAIDENS follow them with every indication of anxiety. CAVALCANTI and DANTE, the latter putting his manuscript in his pocket, join them.*

*Exeunt—Right Front—OMNES.*

CURTAIN.



## ACT SECOND.

SCENE: *Same as in Act First, but not arranged for a fête. The rising curtain reveals LATINI, DINO and other citizens of Florence, also WOMEN.*

*Enter—Right Front—CAVALCANTI and CINO.*

LATINI (*shaking hands with CAVALCANTI*).

And so you have returned victorious.

DINO. Thanks to Donati!

CAVALCANTI. Thanks to him I fear.

DINO Why fear it?

CAVALCANTI. One should always fear the hand

That taps a leaking jail to flood its faction.<sup>16</sup>

Who breaks one law may live to break another.

This very latest victory was gained

Against the orders on our side, as well

As those that they opposed upon the other.

DINO. So much the stronger he!

LATINI. Beware of strength

That, like the brute's, is wielded not by reason.

Except by reason thought was never forced

For its own good.

DINO. But if, in some just cause?—

LATINI. In lands where law supports the right,  
to seek

To rise by breaking legal barriers  
Is worse than climbing up a dizzy stair  
By leaning on a broken bannister.

DINO. You may be right; but few will think  
you so.

The man who tramples on his country's foes  
Treads upward toward a hight, however  
gained,

Where all his countrymen look up to him.

CINO. And now but one can rival him.

LATINI. That one?

CINO. Is Dante.

LATINI. Dante?

CINO. Yes, our Dante! Oh,  
You should have seen him when the battle  
came.

He led the last charge, speeding on a steed<sup>17</sup>  
Well nigh as white as was the air it slid  
through,

His form bent down as if to hurl his head  
Against their lines, and, by sheer force of  
brain,

Burst through them. Faster than the follow-  
ing wind

He flew, as if the blast that urged him on

Were some last trump of Gabriel's, and the  
soul  
Could fear no ills, for it had passed beyond  
them.

*(looking toward the Right Upper)*

I think him coming now.

LATINI. He is.

DINO. And with him  
Comes Donati.

CINO. Watching well the man  
That brought him victory.

CAVALCANTI. Too well, I fear!  
You give to one who never gives to others,  
He first will recognize you as a dupe,  
And then prepare to treat you as a prey.

DINO. They fought for Florence.

CAVALCANTI. Dante, not Donati.  
He fights that all may follow his own standard.

*Enter—Right Upper—DANTE, DONATI, SIMONE,  
and OTHERS of the Blacks.*

*Enter—Left Upper—POPULACE.*

POPULACE. Hurrah for Dante!

DANTE. Nay, nay; say Donati.

A CITIZEN. The charge that clove their line  
for us was yours.

DANTE. Praise not the spear that split the  
foeman's mail,



He lets his own thought lead him; and you  
know

Men led by thought are often led to doubt.

SIMONE. One thinking follower might make  
men believe

Your other followers were controlled by  
thought.

DONATI (*laughingly*). You think a thug could  
ever pose as thinker?

*Enter—Right Upper—GEMMA and BACCHINA and  
another WOMAN.*

GEMMA (*to DONATI, and looking toward DANTE*).  
And is it true he led the charge?

DONATI. They say so.

A brave man, Gemma! but, of course, you  
know it;

Has dared to press a suit with you, I hear.

(GEMMA *nods*.)

A hero, yes! You might not go amiss—

I mean remain a Miss—had he his way.

(GEMMA *looks toward DANTE*. DONATI *contin-  
ues to SIMONE*.)

If made a member of our family,

He might prove ours in all things. Few have  
brains

Too cool and clear to feel a rise in blood

And not be fevered and confused by it.

No poison paralyzes thought like pride;  
 No pride as poisonous as family pride.

BACCHINA (*to GEMMA, and looking toward DANTE.*)

Oh, one could give a world of common men  
 For just one armful of a man like that!

OTHER WOMAN. He must have trained his eyes  
 when he was flying.

They look as deep down through one as  
 an eagle's,

Ay, not as if belonging to the senses  
 But to the soul!

GEMMA. You think so?

OTHER WOMAN. Think so?—Yes.

How broad his chest is!—Look!—and how it  
 heaves!

Hard work, I think, but thrilling work as  
 well,

To keep inside of it a spirit grand  
 As his!

BACCHINA. Note you his graceful limbs, and  
 how

He poises at the waist, as if about  
 To leap to some fair realm of beauty which  
 His flesh enrobes but cannot realize!

CAVALCANTI (*to DANTE at the extreme Left Front*).

One whose position lifts him where the crowd

Look up to him should never use the station  
To drag up low down brutes like this Donati.

DANTE. I only spoke the truth.

CAVALCANTI. Cook soup for swine!  
They leave you, if they fail to find it swill;  
Or else, in greed to get it, trip and tramp you.  
They harm you for your help; and still stay  
swine.

DANTE. But surely I meant right.

CAVALCANTI. Perhaps you did;  
But when we find men claiming they meant  
right,  
We find most others claiming they went  
wrong.

DANTE. You doubt me?

CAVALCANTI. It were hard not doubting one  
Who turns against his own.

DANTE. You mean?

CAVALCANTI. I mean  
Exactly what I say. A little black,  
If mixed with white, may soil the white as  
much  
As all black would.

DANTE. Yourself had been all black,  
And lost for Florence all its liberty,  
Had I myself not urged you to the fight.  
'T is only justice, gratitude, to own it.

CAVALCANTI. Unjust, ungrateful, am I?—What  
 are you  
 To fling these taunts at one who merely  
 seeks  
 To snatch you from the toils of your own  
 folly?  
 The world you think in is a world of fancy.  
 The world all live in is a world of fact.

*Exit—Left Front—CAVALCANTI.*

(DANTE *looks after him, then takes out his manu-  
 script and writes.*)

DONATI (*to SIMONE, and looking toward DANTE  
 and CAVALCANTI*).

They must have quarreled.

SIMONE. Yes, it looks like that.

DONATI. It does; and, when our enemies fall  
 out,

'T is time that we ourselves fall in. For then  
 They fight for their own cause with half their  
 force,

And with the other half they fight for us.

SIMONE. I judge 't was Cavalcanti's jealousy  
 That caused the jar.

DONATI. And their twin poet-natures.  
 When minds are filled so full of light conceits,  
 Clipped off like chippings from substantial  
 concepts,



They store fit kindling-wood, when comes a friction,

To burst in flame. You know I always hold  
A dreaming man is not a dangerous foe;

For dreams portend their opposites. Just  
when

He wings his whims to heaven, he wakes in  
hell.

Ay, ay, a foe deficient in his brain

Is quicker vanquished than if so in body;

For he whose reason fails him in the fray

Fights like a knight unbuckling his own mail.

*Exeunt—Right Front—DONATI and SIMONE.*

(GEMMA and BACCHINA who have been near the  
*Right Upper approach DANTE.*)

BACCHINA (*to DANTE*). You know how all are  
talking of you? Oh,

Your ears must flame!

DANTE (*putting his manuscript in his pocket*).

If flaming high enough,

I might then look like Moses.

BACCHINA.

But suppose

They talked against you?

DANTE.

I would act like him.

BACCHINA. Be meek?

DANTE.

Oh, yes; as meek as he was when

He took down Aaron's calf.

BACCHINA. Whose calf is here?

DANTE. Why theirs who rather would look  
back to Egypt  
Than forward to a promised land.

GEMMA. You mean  
The poet's land?

DANTE. It might mean that to you.

BACCHINA. Why not?—The poet's is the prom-  
ised land,—

Is always promised, but it never comes.

GEMMA. Some think that he would fly to it.

DANTE. Why not?  
Some minds would walk and some would fly.  
You fear

That those who fly all fail to leave a foot-  
print?

GEMMA. You seem despondent. You have  
quarreled—eh?—  
With Cavalcanti?

DANTE. We exchanged some words.

BACCHINA. And flung them hard to make them  
hurt the thing

They hit, not so?—They made your faces red.

DANTE. The day is warm—and pleasant.

BACCHINA *laughs and turns away.*

*Exit—Right Front—*BACCHINA and OTHER WO-  
MAN.

GEMMA. Should be; yes—

For one like you, whom it has proved a hero.

DANTE. A hero?

GEMMA. That is what the whole town says.

DANTE. I did but do my duty.

GEMMA. That is what

But very few do. It gave you your chance.

DANTE. So pigmies, did one plod with them,  
might give

A little common man a chance of greatness.

GEMMA. Of course.

DANTE. Well, I would rather work with  
giants.

GEMMA. Why?

DANTE. They could lift me up above myself.

GEMMA. But you—you do not need that.

DANTE. Not?—Not I?—

When I am lingering here to learn from you?

GEMMA. My uncle and the people—you have  
heard them—

Would all give you an uplift.

DANTE. When the heart  
Sinks deep as mine, touch deft enough to reach  
it

Requires a single hand, not many.

GEMMA. You

Intend to flatter?

DANTE. Do I?

GEMMA. You appear  
To question me.

DANTE. One never questions—does he?—  
A thing in which he takes no interest?

*Enter—Left Upper—CAVALCANTI and BEATRICE,  
and stand watching them.*

GEMMA. I interest you then?

DANTE. Yes, all things do.

GEMMA. That holds no flattery.

DANTE. What?—to treat a maid  
As if confounding her with all things?

GEMMA (*looking toward the Right Front*). There  
My uncle comes. I think would speak to you.  
*Exeunt—Right Front—DANTE and GEMMA.*

BEATRICE (*looking after them*). He seems atten-  
tive to her.

CAVALCANTI. Yes, and goes  
To meet Donati.

BEATRICE. Is it she, or he,  
That draws him toward the Blacks?

CAVALCANTI. No fish are  
drawn

Except by hooks first baited to their taste.

BEATRICE. He has a taste then for your enemies?

CAVALCANTI. I do not know.

BEATRICE. You doubt him?

CAVALCANTI. No; I mourn him.

BEATRICE. You may be right. 'Tis hard to  
make him out.

CAVALCANTI. And harder, if you make him out,  
to say it.

At times, us men who think we understand  
him

He welcomes but like strangers pushing in  
The front door of one's house before they  
knock.

BEATRICE. His poems plead with me, his lips  
with her.

His brain seems like a bat's at blazing noon  
That works but to work out some inward  
whim

And aims at nothing.<sup>18</sup>

CAVALCANTI. Nay; it aims at all things.  
Perhaps it might be wise to let him know  
Your judgment of him.

BEATRICE. How could that be done?

CAVALCANTI. If when one come to pluck a rose,  
he finds

It grows on thorns, he may become more  
cautious.

BEATRICE. Would that be friendly?

CAVALCANTI. Are our foremost  
friends

The ones who first forget our faults, or fail  
Of effort to correct them?

BEATRICE. Did we turn  
Our preferences to pedagogues, and school  
The souls that came to us for sympathy,  
Though best of friends, we might seem worst  
of foes.

*Enter—Right Front—DANTE followed by CINO.*

CAVALCANTI. We quarreled lately. Notice me  
ignore him.

(CAVALCANTI and BEATRICE pass DANTE  
without bowing to him although they bow  
to CINO. DANTE sits in distress on the  
bench<sup>19</sup>.)

*Exeunt—Right Front—CAVALCANTI and BEA-  
TRICE.*

CINO (to DANTE, sitting down beside him).  
What is it?

DANTE. Why, you saw! They were  
my friends.

Oh what a world is this for souls to live in!—  
For spirits whose one deepest wish it is  
To think at one with others like themselves,  
And all together think one thought of God!  
But here one knows no wishes not imprisoned  
Where all the implements to set him free

Are but these clumsy tools of breath and  
brawn.

CINO. Some understand us.

DANTE. You, perhaps, not me!—

My soul is but an alien on the earth,  
And alien most to this brute frame of mine  
That never lets me do the thing I would;  
So what I like not, it attracts to me;  
And what I like and love, it drives away.

CINO. This on the day the people cheered you so?

DANTE. You think I craved their cheering?

No, not that.

I only want the best I have within  
To be made better and believed, and then  
Received by those about me.

CINO. They all know  
How you have fought for Florence.

DANTE. Do they know  
How I would have them live, so none should  
need

To fight for her? Think you 't is by the sword  
That one can set a soul, while living, free?  
Ah, not by deeds but dreaming does the spirit,  
Itself uplifted, lift up those about it.

CINO. So you remain a poet!

DANTE. I remain

What heaven has made me.

CINO. Does it come from  
heaven?

DANTE. It comes from all in life that is worth  
living.

*Enter—Left Upper—TWO MESSENGERS from the  
BLACKS.*

*Enter—Right Upper—A MESSENGER from the  
WHITES.*

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS (*to DANTE, who  
with CINO rises*). Donati and the leaders  
of the Blacks

Will dine to-night at Carpi's. They await  
you.

MESSENGER FROM WHITES (*to DANTE*). And  
Cavalcanti and the Whites will dine  
At Rondinelli's. They await you, too.

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS. Our invitation was  
the first.

MESSENGER FROM WHITES. And mine  
The best.

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS (*drawing sword*).  
Then prove it.

(*The other MESSENGER FROM BLACKS also draws  
his sword.*)

MESSENGER FROM WHITES (*drawing sword*).  
You are two to one;  
And that is one too many.



DANTE (*drawing his sword to separate them*).

Here, fight fair!

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS. You think your  
own fair play—against my side

And back?

DANTE. I would not harm you. I would  
keep

You both from harming one another.

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS. Oh!

*Enter—Right Upper—CAVALCANTI and BEA-  
TRICE.*

(DANTE *does not notice them*).

DANTE (*to MESSENGERS*). No flattery for your-  
selves! In times like these

A man would kick apart the meanest curs

That snarled and snapped each other for the  
bone

Beside the city gate, and so save all

That all might still keep watch for Florence.

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS. Ah,

You think when you have cursed us all as curs

That this will keep the city's peace?

MESSENGER FROM WHITES. Well, well;

No man that calls me cur but I call down.

CAVALCANTI. What is it? Wait here.

(*Motions to MESSENGER OF WHITES who falls  
back.*)

BEATRICE. I have sometimes heard <sup>20</sup>  
That whom the gods destroy they first make  
mad.

What pity it would be, did Florence fall,  
Because of one defender less to save her!  
When foes assail our hights they all should  
look

To find us marshalled here in unity  
With all our differences hid as deep  
As are the lowest things the valley shadows.

MESSENGER FROM WHITES. You may be right.

MESSENGER FROM BLACKS (*sheathing his  
sword, as do also the others*).

Some things that may go wrong  
Are righted by the touch of circumstance.

CAVALCANTI. All things are righted by the  
touch of reason.

Without it men are but base tools of passion,  
And all their world here, the abode of  
brutes.

DANTE (*to MESSENGERS*). Your pardon, gentle-  
men; but I must dine

In my own home to-night. I thank you  
much.

*Exeunt—Right Front—CAVALCANTI, BEATRICE,  
and MESSENGER FROM WHITES.*

*Exit—Left Front—MESSENGERS FROM BLACKS.*

DANTE (*to CINO, taking out his manuscript and looking towards BEATRICE*).

Do your wrists, ankles, thighs, and arms, all  
ache?

CINO. All ache?

DANTE. Yes, ache.

CINO. How so?

DANTE. They ache, I say!

At times with too much joy, as if a-tremble  
To fly above, yet bound by brawn below;  
Or when you feel insulted, slighted, sad,  
They do not ache then, either?

CINO. No, not mine.

DANTE. You never feel your soul here in your  
nerves?

CINO. No, no.

DANTE. My nerves are weaker, then, than  
yours.

CINO. Your soul may then be stronger.

DANTE. Say not that.

CINO. And better!

DANTE. Nay; no friendship that is true  
Was ever caught or kept by flattery.  
No; I am weaker, maybe worse.

CINO. Take care!  
The modest may be more unjust to self  
Than are the egotistic to their fellows.

DANTE. If just or not just to myself, who knows  
it?

Why even you, you do not feel as I do.

Why should a soul, whose one wish is to be  
Akin with others—understood,—be made  
So different?

CINO (*pointing to DANTE'S manuscript*). My  
Dante, all the thoughts

That flood the world spring up from single  
souls;

And some of these may bless it most when  
made

To spend their lives interpreting themselves.

DANTE (*putting his manuscript in his pocket*).

I thank you; but I fear that any soul

That needs to be interpreted, before

It gains the common love of common men—

For this alone is all for which I long—

Dwells in the doom of some uncommon  
curse.

CINO. Do not think that.

DANTE. And wherefore should I not?

Here stood two parties. Each I strove to  
serve.

With what result?—a brawl befitting wolves,  
Till I, dishonored bone of their contention,  
Am snarled aside.

CINO. An hour ago, they praised you.

DANTE. What care I for the masses' praise or blame?

But larger atoms of earth's common dust,  
If whirled against one or away from one,  
They cannot fill or empty thus the sphere  
Where dwells the spirit. Let them come or go.  
My soul desires not many things but much—  
Ah yes, and too much, too much, as it seems!

*Enter—Left Front—GEMMA and OTHER WOMEN.*

CINO (*looking toward them*).

Is that what you desire?

DANTE. You said just now  
The world could not interpret my desire.

There is but one—and all things work to make  
My presence to that one misrepresent me.

GEMMA (*approaching with a garland in her hand,  
and addressing DANTE*).

Yes, it is brought for you.

DANTE. For me?

GEMMA. For you.

The knight whose hard strife keeps our soil  
our own,

As much as gardeners who keep it growing,  
Deserves the garland that is got from it.

*Enter—Right Upper—BEATRICE and CAVAL-  
CANTI, unseen by DANTE.*

DANTE (*to GEMMA and the WOMEN, as he takes the garland*).

I thank you. Fitting too, it is that these  
That represent the beautiful in nature  
Should represent it, too, in human form.

What man could fail to do his best to gain  
The city's best in symbol and in substance!

(*Bowing to GEMMA, then looking up and seeing*

BEATRICE, *he suddenly sits on the bench.*)<sup>21</sup>

CINO (*bending over him*). What is it?

DANTE.

Nothing.

CINO (*to the OTHERS*). Nothing, so he says.

Perhaps the battle had exhausted him.

CURTAIN.

## ACT THIRD.

SCENE: *A Room in the House of DANTE. Against the back wall, nearest the Right Entrance, is a table, on two sides of which are chairs. Other chairs and a sofa are in the Room. Entrances by doors at Right and Left. The windows are closed and the light not bright.*

*The rising Curtain reveals DANTE and CINO sitting at the table. DANTE is listlessly looking away from the manuscript in front of himself; and CINO is diligently examining another.*

CINO (*looking toward DANTE*).

Why, Dante, you have lost your interest?—

DANTE. I have.

CINO. Your verse there is not new, of course.

I got it from you months ago<sup>4</sup>; but yet

True poems hold the truth as gems the light,

When rightly polished drawing to their depth

All that is luminous in earth or heaven;

And thence reflect it not alone but flash it;

And not till all light go, can lose their brilliance.

DANTE. You give the reason—all my light is gone.

You still write poetry?

CINO. Why, yes, and so  
Still need your criticism; ay, just now  
Have found a new task baffling me.

DANTE. In what?

CINO. A sister of a friend of mine has died,—  
A maiden of such beauty, grace, and love,  
It were impossible to think her dead,  
And not be drawn toward beauty, grace, and  
love  
In their diviner aspects.

DANTE. You should write  
Of her?

CINO. So have I thought; but what or how?—  
Perhaps you might suggest it.<sup>22</sup>

DANTE. Cino, Cino,  
I understand you. There are souls on earth  
With senses all so fine and penetrant  
That no thoughts in a kindred soul can lie  
So deeply hidden that they stand not naked.  
Not her you mean; not you it is need help.  
You mean my own lost love. You mean my-  
self.

You think that hearts too heavy weighed with  
grief



May empty through their words as well as  
tears.

I thank you, Cino. Let my tears flow  
first.

Our sorrows are half lifted when the souls  
Of our true friends have come to bear them  
with us.

Last night when darkness fell and veiled my  
face<sup>23</sup>

From those I surely thought it else had  
frighted,

I walked the streets and watched the city  
dream.

In lanes, in inns, in churches, and in homes  
Each face I gazed at loomed as grim with  
shadows

As those that clung to mine. Her funeral  
pall

Seemed closely hung about myself as her,  
Flopping a dangling, dire, bedraggled fringe  
Of tear-soaked black between myself and all  
things.

CINO. Think not she lies beneath it. Nay, she  
lives;

And lives where all may look for inspiration.

DANTE. The one sure proof of inspiration is  
That it inspires. I feel no inspiration.

CINO. The air of heaven to-day is full of sunshine.

Shut in here do you feel it? No; none do  
But those who journey forth to do life's work.  
Their lot were yours, were you to follow them.

*Knocking at the Left Entrance.*

DANTE and CINO both rise.

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT.*

*He hands DANTE a Card.*

DANTE. Excuse me, Cino. I must calm myself—

Will soon return. A man should not look  
grieved

To greet a friendly visitor.

*Exit—Right—DANTE.*

*The ATTENDANT opens the door at the Left Entrance.*

*Enter—Left—CAVALCANTI.*

CINO (to CAVALCANTI). Good day.

*Exit—Left—ATTENDANT.*

CAVALCANTI (*bowing to CINO*). I have not seen  
him lately—never since

The death of Beatrice—

CINO. That seemed to quench  
All ardor in him for all work.

CAVALCANTI. I hope.

But temporarily. A mind like his

Glows like a spark upon a wintry hearth,—  
The brightest promise that the times afford.

CINO. Vitality as buoyant as his own  
Can hardly sink. Yet, whelmed in floods of  
grief,

All men at times have need of helping hands.

CAVALCANTI. The hand that helps another most  
is his

Whose own hand would find help.

CINO. Let him know  
The help that Florence needs.

CAVALCANTI. The loss he feels  
Is like the love it followed, less derived  
From outward traits discovered in another,  
Than inward temperament revealed in self.  
Can any outward substitute replace  
That which was all within?—But we can try it.

CINO. He comes, I see.

*Enter—Right—DANTE.*

*He exchanges bows with CAVALCANTI.*

CAVALCANTI. So sorry for you, friend.

DANTE. I find me in life's path, a traveler  
Whom accident has maimed, and would be left  
To die, did friends not come to rescue him.

CAVALCANTI. Ay, but they do come!

DANTE. Yes, I thank you, yes;  
And yet, what can they do for one?

CINO. Perhaps  
 Their outstretched hands may show that love  
 is hidden  
 Behind the mysteries that seem to cloak it.

DANTE. I thank you, Cino.

CINO. Dante, I believe,  
 Though hard the drill that trains the soul to  
 read it,  
 That every message of the stars is written  
 In letters one can learn to spell on earth.

DANTE. Oh, I can do but little now with letters!

CAVALCANTI. It seems thus to you.

DANTE. Seems thus, Cavalcanti?—  
 And what is life except the thing that seems?  
 There was a time this round horizon rested  
 About my spirit, as about my finger  
 This ring of gold; and in it gleamed a gem  
 That centered all heaven's light, and flashed it  
 forth.

That gem is lost. With it my light is lost.

CAVALCANTI. I hope not, Dante. Florence yet  
 is left.

DANTE. Alas for Florence!

CAVALCANTI. There are those who  
 claim

Her destined to receive the help of Rome?

DANTE. How so?

CAVALCANTI. What we are asking. No one knows.

CINO. A mystery yet! The Church has not revealed it.

CAVALCANTI. Too much a mystery! When men distrust

Their own thought or their thought's authority  
So they disguise it all in robes of office,  
Which only men are bid to honor, then  
I fear they hide what no man ought to honor.

CINO. You are a skeptic, Cavalcanti.<sup>9</sup>

CAVALCANTI. Yes;

As long as one thing in the world is wrong,  
Some skeptic should be here to think it so.

DANTE. Has no one tried to solve the mystery?

CAVALCANTI. To question mysteries guarded by  
the Church

Does not provoke safe answers in our time.

DANTE. Can no one solve it but the Church?

CAVALCANTI. I fear

Donati could; and therefore say I fear.

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT with a card.*

DANTE (*taking the card and reading it*). Why,  
even now, Donati visits me.

Will you excuse me?

CAVALCANTI. Ay, but may the comer  
Be levied to bear tribute to our quest.

DANTE. Will see you later.

CAVALCANTI. Yes, farewell.

CINO. Farewell.

*Exeunt—Right—CAVALCANTI and CINO.*

*The ATTENDANT opens the door at the Left.*

*Enter—Left—DONATI, SIMONE, a PRIEST,  
GEMMA, and an Elderly CHAPERON.*

*Exit—Left—ATTENDANT.*

DONATI (to DANTE). When passing, though by  
accident,

The loyal pause to honor royalty,  
So we to honor one whom we esteem.

DANTE. I thank you. You are welcome.

*(All exchange greetings.)*

Will you sit?

*(They bow, but they do not sit.)*

DONATI (to DANTE). We have not met you  
lately.

DANTE. No.

PRIEST. You think,

You poets, you are called to testify  
To what incites you from within, and so  
The less you take from outside life the better?

DANTE. At times, if aimed for better poetry.

PRIEST. Oh, say not that!

DANTE. Why not?

PRIEST. If it would grow,

A nature young as yours has need of health.  
 The spirit's health is hope. Without it none  
 Attain full manhood. Life is like a day.  
 It wakes to longer work and larger wage,  
 The brighter its beginning.

DANTE. Yes, I fear so.

PRIEST. You fear so, eh?—and yet you do not  
 fear

Insulting nature when it comes to bless you  
*(Pointing to the closed shutters)*

With windows barred like this, as if the day  
 Had brought not light but lances.

DANTE. Think I need it?

DONATI. At least, enough light from the outer  
 world

To see what now has come to Florence.

DANTE. What?

DONATI. The Holy Father's promise and protec-  
 tion

Against the Emperor.

DANTE. Is it true?

DONATI. It is.

PRIEST. And that would bring the whole our  
 city needs,—

Not strength so much to fight the force without  
 But spirit to unite the force within.

Life grows here like a tree with outer branches

Too broad for any handling, but with trunk  
 So small and slender that a single hand  
 Can fix its destiny for life or death.  
 The trunk of all that lives is in the spirit.  
 But find the hand that can be laid on  
 that,  
 You find what brings to all things bloom or  
 blight.

DANTE. You mean the Holy Father's?

PRIEST. I mean his.

With outer facts we merely fashion faction,  
 In inner feeling we find fellowship.

DONATI. He speaks the truth.

DANTE. Ay, what a noon were that!

There were no shade beside a thing on  
 earth,  
 If heaven's one sun were central over all.  
 You think it could be done?—could end our  
 factions?

DONATI. Why could it not?—not many men  
 would band  
 Against the Holy Father.

DANTE. And were you—

Were you the source whence came this con-  
 summation?

DONATI. So men have said.

DANTE. And will you pardon me?



In thought, if not in word, my lack of know-  
ledge  
Had lacked the honor due you.

DONATI. You are frank.

PRIEST. A mind with thought forever in the  
clouds

May be excused for stumbling, now and then,  
At what, if seen through, might appear mere  
shadow.

GEMMA. One may excuse a bird, if, when it  
flies,

It fails in seeing everything on earth.<sup>24</sup>

DANTE. I beg your pardon, lady—for I fear  
To court with too much courtesy the truth  
That but to be truth bids us oft be curt—  
Some poet's eyes are keen as are their fellows!  
In searching through the pathways of the past,  
What guide men better in their task than  
poems?

SIMONE. But how about the future?

DANTE. 'T is in them  
One reads the most of that which is to come.

SIMONE. And in the present, too?

DANTE. In it, not that  
Which is but should be, is the poet's theme,  
And he who thinks it thinks the thought of  
God.

DONATI. Come, come, we need not quarrel.  
 Not how men  
 Can fight the air with words, but how their  
 frames  
 Can back their words with blows that free  
 their air  
 Of all that blocks right doing, this is that  
 By which a man reveals his worth in life.  
 And you will join with us, and with the  
 Church?

DANTE. You may depend upon me.

DONATI. That I shall  
 (*aside to SIMONE*).

Now we shall have but half the Whites against  
 us.

(*to DANTE*). I must be going to my offices.

(*to GEMMA*). You said, I think, that you  
 go elsewhere?

GEMMA. Yes.

DONATI (*to DANTE*). 'T is time we leave you.

DANTE (*bidding good-bye to DONATI, SIMONE,  
 and OTHERS*).

Thank you for your visit.

*Exeunt—Left—DONATI, SIMONE, PRIEST, and  
 ATTENDANTS.*

(*to GEMMA*).

They seemed in haste.

GEMMA. Are bent on business.

DANTE. You know, I sometimes think that  
business

Is like a cyclone, fills our ways with dust  
And bustle; yet men say it comes to clear  
them

And bring us rest and comfort. Humph!—  
farewell.

GEMMA. So kind in you to help my uncle!<sup>24</sup>

DANTE. No;

My heart belongs to Florence; only beats  
That she may live her life; and he was kind  
In helping her; and I have gratitude.

Ay, he was right. For us one hope remains,—  
The Church. We both look forward to the  
Church,

And, joined by it, our union will be perfect.

*Enter—Right—CAVALCANTI and ATTENDANTS.*

*They overhear the last sentence.*

*Exeunt—Left—after exchanging farewells, GEMMA  
and CHAPERON.*

DANTE (*turning to CAVALCANTI*).

Ah, back again?

CAVALCANTI. We are.

DANTE. Have news?

CAVALCANTI. We had.

DANTE. What was it?

CAVALCANTI. Nay, like wise men, we  
are wary  
Of friends that follow those with hostile  
colors.

DANTE. I do not see—

CAVALCANTI. We saw and heard and  
know.

DANTE. Oh that was nothing!

CAVALCANTI. Not for you, perhaps.  
But very much for us.

DANTE. Let me explain.

CAVALCANTI. You need not; nor excuse it.  
Temperament  
And taste, like flower and fragrance, go to-  
gether.

What God hath joined let man not put  
asunder.

DANTE. But you—

CAVALCANTI. Have found before that family  
reasons,  
At times, turn white to black.

DANTE. Are no such reasons.

CAVALCANTI. Mere words are wind; nor all  
their storm or stress  
Can pack the air so thought cannot see through  
it.

DANTE. You mean?



CAVALCANTI. The thing you said!—To God  
with what you meant!—

One who has not His confidence must guess it.

DANTE. How did my spirit trip to fall so low  
In your esteem?

CAVALCANTI. We mortals are compounded  
Of sense below, and spirit resting on it.

If sense give way, no wonder spirit falls.

DANTE. You deem me treacherous to the one  
above

That so I love; and treacherous too to one<sup>25</sup>

That I do not love?—By your hope of heaven,  
In your deep heart, can you believe this of  
me?

CAVALCANTI. Why, think you, some men call  
me skeptical?—

Because I say what I believe, not so?

DANTE. But do you think?—

CAVALCANTI. What else, pray, could  
one think?—

You just took council with Donati.

DANTE. There!—

Again your jealousy! He called on me,  
Not I on him.

CAVALCANTI. You knew his object?

DANTE. Yes—

To end our factions for us here in Florence,—

To place above us all the sovereignty  
Which only brings good will and peace on  
earth.

CAVALCANTI. And you have pledged yourself  
and followers

To join Donati in enthroning this?

DANTE. I have.

CAVALCANTI. You fool.

DANTE. Take care.

CAVALCANTI. I say but truth.

A man who fails to judge the character  
Of what is promised by the character  
Of him who promises, reveals no mind;  
For mind is what connects effect and cause.  
You knew the baseness of Donati, yet  
Guessed not the baseness that was in his plan.  
Henceforward, though you know a bush be  
poison,  
Bid men come pluck and gorge its pretty berries;  
And, if all die, expect no blame for it—  
You have but carried out the kind of thought  
With which heaven filled the kind of mind like  
yours.

Surrender, would you, to the Holy Father?<sup>26</sup>  
You know what that means?—All his troops  
come armed.

Their leader is the French prince, Charles of Valois.

The Emperor, I tell you, is a very god  
Beside a devil of a man like Charles,—  
A treacherous, truthless, crafty, cruel brute;  
Who too comes pledged to slaughter or to  
banish

Each man of us not in Donati's faction.

DANTE. Can this be true?

CAVALCANTI. It is. May heaven defend us!  
The pull that lifts one by a rotting rope  
Is far less dangerous than the help that comes  
From foolish friends.

*Enter, suddenly—Left—DONATI, SIMONE, PRIEST,  
and ATTENDANTS.*

DONATI (*noticing CAVALCANTI and ATTENDANTS*).

Aha! They would dissuade you?

DANTE. There seems a difference of opinion  
here.

DONATI. I have your promise.

CAVALCANTI. And I fear a traitor.

DONATI (*to DANTE*). And he has given you  
proof?

CAVALCANTI (*to DONATI*). What need of proof?  
We best can judge of some things by their  
source,—



Of days by daylight, and of good by goodness.  
Heaven sends the one, and only heavenly  
traits

Can bring the other.

DONATI (*to CAVALCANTI*). Yours are heavenly  
traits?—

He made a promise. Now you bid him break  
it?

CAVALCANTI. A promise made to suit a lie but  
robes

Untruth that truth should strip and so show  
naked.

DONATI. Here stand my men; and if his tongue  
prove false,

*(pointing toward DANTE)*

Their blades know how to cut it loose from  
him.

CAVALCANTI. And here stand mine; and if he  
prove a traitor,

Their blades know how to cut him loose from  
us.

DONATI (*to DANTE*). Now choose between us,  
if you dare.

CAVALCANTI. Ay, choose!

DANTE. Have you considered that to which  
you dare me?

To start right here a civil war in Florence?

Kill off our bravest citizens, and open  
The doors of half our homes to lust and murder?

And do you think that I could dare do that?  
You bid me choose between you. You forget  
There is another power upon the earth  
Far higher, stronger, than can be your own.

*(placing his hand on the PRIEST)*

I hide beneath the shelter of the church.  
I vow a pilgrimage to Rome; and thus

*(turning to DONATI)*

Fulfil my promise,

*(turning to CAVALCANTI)*

and find out the truth

From him who knows it best,—the Holy  
Father.<sup>27</sup>

CURTAIN.

## ACT FOURTH.

SCENE: *A Monk's Cell. It is dimly lighted by a single lamp, and is connected by a door with a church, from which the sound of musical instruments and of singing can be heard. The cell is plainly furnished with three or four chairs or benches. In the Right Rear is an alcove in front of which hangs a Curtain. This can be opened fully, or only partly, revealing then a space, through which, at times, indicated in the text, a moving head and bust can be seen.*

*Entrances, Right and Left, the latter into the church.*

*Enter—Left—DANTE and CINO, shutting the door and making the cell darker.*

DANTE. My journey wrought no good. The  
Holy Father

Kept me a prisoner there for months, you  
know,<sup>27</sup>

For fear my presence here should thwart his  
purpose;—

Was courteous, of course; but Cavalcanti  
Was more than half-way warranted, I fear.

In Church or State, the official seems the  
same,—

A fist in front with which to threaten one;

A palm behind to beg him for a bribe.

CINO. Yet you yourself are prior of the city?

DANTE. And so have learned that when men  
give us votes,

They lie in wait to have their gifts returned,—

To wrest from us an undeserved reward,

Or brand us ingrates whom all friends desert.

CINO. Oh, say not all!

DANTE. No, Cino, no; not all.<sup>28</sup>

Forgive me, Cino. Since we two were boys,

The only love that I have felt returned,

Has been my love for you.

CINO. And yet they say

The love of woman——

DANTE. Could that satisfy

And thrill with aught so true, unselfish,

pure?—

I worship boyhood, thinking what we were.

CINO. But what of Rome?

DANTE. If leading toward the wrong,

Ought those who seek the right to follow her?

CINO. Good children follow.

DANTE. Parents gone insane,

Or but awry, are saved by opposition.

Love uniformed and forced in hatred's press-  
gang

Is only served by those who war against it.

Our thoughts of good should learn to separate

The heavenly love from its foul earthly nest.

To hold the latter's dead impurity

At one with spotless life that wings on high,

Is often to deserve—I will not judge them.

I would I could forget them. Do you know

Some men there are have murder in their  
hearts

Through all their lives; and if they murder  
not——

CINO. They may be rightly numbered with the  
saints.

Not what our lower nature makes us feel,

But what our higher nature lets us do,

Determines what we are.

DANTE.

I hope so, friend.

At times my soul appears a stormy sea,

All rage below and rain above; and then

It seems the tears I shed have drained me dry,

And left a void too deep for faith in God

Or man to fill.

CINO

For that I brought you here.

DANTE. And kindly meant, but yet we mortals  
find

That few things, when we turn them inside  
out,  
Are proved to be the miracles we thought  
them.

CINO. But you may see here for yourself.

DANTE. Oh no!

The time to see the feathers on a wing  
Is not the while it flies; no, no; and not  
While playing sleight of hand to see the  
fingers.

CINO. But you can use your judgment.

DANTE. No, again!—

No man who is no expert risks a judgment  
On questions experts only can decide,  
Without revealing his own lack of judgment.

CINO. At least, your mind is open.

DANTE. Yet to what?—

All brains with limits are what polyps own  
You think?—Ours too fit forms whose grasp  
can never  
Outreach the touch of short tentacula.  
Your monk has credit here?<sup>29</sup>

CINO. With some he has.

They think that through him they have seen  
the Virgin.

DANTE. Humph! He is coming.

*Enter—Right—MONK.*

CINO (to MONK).

I have brought with me

This gentleman—is prior of the city.

MONK. You do me honor.

CINO. Would consult with you  
About the city's welfare.

MONK. I know not

What may be granted. Sometimes at this  
hour,

The while one hears the music in the church,

I sink unconscious. Then, so am I told,

Some higher power proclaims its presence  
through me.

*Music is heard from the church with the following  
words:*

The sky contains full half I see.

In soil below I live, I love.

High in the half that looms above,

Oh, is there nothing there for me?

*During the music, the MONK points to the  
curtain. CINO and DANTE draw it aside,  
and examine the walls and floors behind  
and beneath; then the MONK goes into  
the alcove and draws the curtain behind  
him. The words of the song are followed  
by a soft instrumental interlude.*

DANTE. Seems honest.

CINO. I have thought so.

DANTE. Could one solve  
All motives and all means of mystery,  
There were no sphere for faith.

CINO. No. Sit you here.

CINO and DANTE take seats at the Left, facing the Curtain. Throughout the séance, DANTE, now and then, writes in his manuscript.

DANTE. And now you think the prior of the city  
May meet an actual Holy Father, eh?  
*After the instrumental interlude the following is sung:*

The sky's bright sun and stars I see  
The soil below is guised in green  
In heaven whose orbs are robed in sheen,  
Oh, is there nothing there for me?

*These words are followed by a soft instrumental interlude. The curtain begins to move from side to side. Then it opens and a woman's form enrobed in a white gown appears.*

CINO. That seems a woman.

DANTE. But the monk was beardless.

CINO. Yet note how slim she is.



DANTE. She may be, yes.

FIGURE. Good evening, friends.

DANTE. A very good falsetto!

*The figure after making gestures disappears.*

CINO. Well done, not so?

DANTE. Too well!

CINO. Could you explain it?

DANTE. Why no; not wholly. What of that?

At times,

That facts are facts is plain without explaining.

To know things grow, we need not know their methods.

To think things handiwork, we need not see

The hand that does the work. What was she, think you?—

And what her object?

CINO. Was a guide preparing

The way for more.

DANTE. Conducting spirit, eh?

*After the instrumental interlude the following is sung:*

In thoughts within, sweet rest I see;

In things without, but dust and toil.

Where hang no veils of flesh and soil,

Oh, is there nothing there for me?

*These words are followed by a soft instrumental interlude. The curtain opens, and a man's figure clothed in white appears.*

CINO. Watch that now.

DANTE. Has a beard, and well  
put on.

FIGURE. The world keeps rolling on from day to  
night.

None always dwell where always glows the  
light.

When darkness comes, and doubt assails the  
mind,

Then light and faith come following swift be-  
hind.

*The figure disappears.*

DANTE. Is optimistic. Yet the merest child  
Could recognize the monk there by his  
voice.

And what was he?

CINO. A guide.

DANTE. Another, eh?—  
And learned his lesson well. But when will  
those

That need the guiding come?

CINO. Must wait and watch.  
*After the instrumental interlude the following is  
sung:*

In faith and hope and love I see  
 Why earth sent home the Christ that came.  
 When I go home, and own the same,  
 Shall there be nothing there for me?

*These words are followed by a soft instrumental interlude. The curtain opens and a figure of Beatrice clothed in white appears.*

CINO. Look there. I think your name was called too.

DANTE. Yes,—  
 And shall I answer?

CINO. I would—go and see it.

DANTE (*rising and approaching the curtain*).

Why, why,—what is it?—Cino, can you help me?

Come here, please, come.

CINO. Why, that is Beatrice.<sup>30</sup>

DANTE. You see her?

CINO. Yes.

DANTE. And it is not my fancy?

CINO. Nay, question not yourself, but her—  
 less loud!—

She else may disappear.

DANTE (*to the FIGURE*). You come to me?

FIGURE. And do you know me then?

DANTE. Are Beatrice?—

You wear her form.—What would you have me do?—

FIGURE. Do what you dreamt last night, and now design.

DANTE. And then, what then?

FIGURE (*disappearing*). Then—we shall meet again.

DANTE. Wait, wait! (*to CINO*) Why, call her back!

CINO. No, not to-day.

You spoke too loud. Hear that?—The monk is waking.

DANTE. Why I—I had no chance to test its truth.

CINO. And yet you saw her.

DANTE. Yes.

CINO. And so did I.

DANTE. And if I come again here, can I see her?

*Enter—from behind the curtain—the MONK.*

DANTE *continues, addressing the MONK.*

What I have seen now, can I see again?

MONK. They tell me so. And did you get the thought

To guide you in the conduct of the city?

DANTE. The conduct of?—Oh yes, you thought of that?

(to CINO).

But as I sat here, I had not that thought,  
But one sweet thought of her, and how to  
reach her;

And what it was that filled the space between  
us;

And how I could describe it! Did you hear  
The word she spake. She bade me tell my  
dream

Of moving toward and meeting her.—But how  
Could she have known it! Could I but be-  
lieve

She was a spirit sent here to inspire me!

(to MONK).

And you will let me come again, and prove  
The truth of this?

MONK. I will; yet now it seems  
That you believe it.

DANTE. With my heart I do.

MONK. And sometimes hearts judge better than  
do heads.

CINO. Ay, sometimes things may be so beauti-  
ful,

And fill the spirit with such holy thrills,  
To doubt them were akin to doubting God,  
When face to face with his own blazing pres-  
ence.

MONK. At least, all beauty changes what it brightens.

A flower that blooms may merely fall to soil,  
But, when it does, the soil to which it falls  
Is never quite the same it was before.

DANTE. Yet mind has methods that must be fulfilled.

You say that I may come again. I thank you.  
(to CINO).

To save mine honor that men else had doubted,<sup>18 25 31</sup>

I had to marry; yet I feared I wronged  
The memory of this other. Now, if true—  
Oh Cino, think!—She may forgive and guide me!

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT and GEMMA.*

*They open the door and leave it open, letting in much more light.*

Sh—sh—my wife.

(*gesturing and speaking to both CINO and the MONK*).

No word of this to her!

GEMMA (*bowing to others and speaking to DANTE*).

I came here to attend the funeral—<sup>32</sup>

Signora Frescobaldi. Then I learned

That you had crossed the cloister. You should know

The threatened danger. Whites and Blacks  
have come

In crowds and companies, all frowns and  
threats.

DANTE. They surely have not brought their  
weapons?

GEMMA. Yes.

DANTE. Good God!—to treat His house as if  
a hot-house

To nursery blood-red blades of hellish hate!

We should prevent this.

MONK. I will keep them parted.

*(Holding up his cross.)*

Against the cross they will not dare to  
fight.

*Exit—Left—MONK.*

DANTE. The city-guards should be informed at  
once.

Here, take you this for me.

*(Writing on a manuscript and handing it to*

ATTENDANT.)

*Exit—Right—ATTENDANT.*

*(A noise of conflict).*

CINO. Already fighting?

*He moves toward the door at the Left.*

*Enter—Left—The MONK, evidently slain, borne  
by ATTENDANTS.*

DANTE (*to CINO, as he himself kneels down to examine the MONK on the floor*).

Killed him? killed him?—and I can learn no more?—

The gates of heaven that he could set ajar,  
And he alone, must now be closed again?

*Enter—Left—CAVALCANTI and DONATI, both respectively followed by WHITES and BLACKS. DANTE rises and continues to them.*

Oh you accursed heathen! worse than those  
Who ignorantly crucified the Lord!

You knew his messenger, yet murdered  
him.

ATTENDANT OF CAVALCANTI. It was an accident.

DANTE. An accident!—

Like that which follows from the rock that  
falls

Where men who lie in wait have loosened it.

An accident—oh yes!—that plots to arm

The palsied, shaking, thought-void clutch of  
rage,

And let it loose to raise a hellish storm

Just where the good have come for heavenly  
calm!

The lightning of your flashing blades fell not  
By accident.



ATTENDANT OF CAVALCANTI. It was Donati's  
men

That started it.

ATTENDANT OF DONATI. Nay, Cavalcanti's.

DANTE. Nay,  
But both; and all whose orders brought these  
arms.

When mortals are our hosts, the meanest  
men

Will not insult them in their homes, but you  
Come here to God's house, allequipped to break  
His law of love, and kill his ministers.

Why, one might almost visit hell to-day

In safety,—so deserted by the fiends

Called out to take possession here of you!

*(Some draw swords and some threaten him.)*

You threaten me?—Why not?—Just now in  
there

*(pointing toward the Left)*

Were threatening God!—And do I fear you?

—No;

I have no need. The men who dare do right  
Enlist with God, who guards—or guides them  
home.

*Enter—Right—A file of city guards.*

There is one certain way to end these troubles.  
I had my doubt before. The priors lack

One vote by which to banish both your leaders,—

Yes, Cavalcanti and Donati, both.<sup>32</sup>

GEMMA. Nay, say not that!

DANTE. I say that I shall give it;  
And clear my conscience, while I clear this air,  
And clean these foul and corpse-clogged lanes  
of Florence.

Let this be done, her son's aspiring hope  
May picture outlines of her destiny  
In hues more bright and sweet than could be  
dreamed

By any soul besmirched here and bestenched  
In blotches of your cursed Black and White.

CURTAIN.

## ACT FIFTH.

SCENE: *The same as in Act Third. Backing, at the center, is a desk connected with a writing table. In the desk are many manuscripts in confusion; and near it, on the floor, a waste basket. In the room are chairs and sofas. The rising curtain reveals DANTE with pen in hand sitting before a manuscript on the desk, humming and drumming with his fingers, as if marking off time to some rhythm.*

*Entrances—Right and Left.*

*Enter—Right—GEMMA.*

GEMMA (to DANTE). What are you doing?

DANTE. Writing.

GEMMA. Always writing.

DANTE. That is my mission.

GEMMA. Not your business.

DANTE. They differ?

GEMMA. Yes. One's mission, as a rule,  
Is wrought alone; one's business with others.  
Things done alone may but be done for self.  
Things done with others may be done, too, for  
them.

DANTE. True missions only serve the higher  
self.

GEMMA. Some people always think their own  
selves higher

Than are the selves of those about them.

DANTE. Oh!—

You knew me as a poet when we married.

GEMMA. I knew you as a boy, too; and I  
thought

That when you grew you would become a  
man.

There was a time my uncle thought so, too.

He pictured you a hero and a leader.

Now none dare claim you as a follower.

DANTE. None dare?

GEMMA. Who dares to have a follower  
That stabs him in the back, as you have  
stabbed

Donati and your great friend, Cavalcanti?

DANTE. You know I try to follow what is right.

GEMMA. And never find the right save in your-  
self;

And, if you did, your endless cant and chatter  
Knagged out like warnings from a rattler's  
tail

Would worry off your faction's foes before  
You harmed them.

DANTE. So you think me wrong?

GEMMA. As all do.

Who vote you prior now? They tax your all  
Like some plebeian. When you wish to work,  
None care to wager wages on your doing.

DANTE. And my own household also turn  
against me?

GEMMA. Besides descending to your disesteem,  
Your wife should hanker, eh, and hunger too  
To starve with you!<sup>33</sup>

*(Snatches and tears up the manuscript he is  
writing.)*

DANTE *(trying, at first, to save his manuscript)*.  
And why do you do that?

GEMMA. To wake you up.

DANTE. One who writes out his dream  
Must be awake already.

GEMMA. I would make  
You realize it, so I tear it up.

DANTE. One dream was torn up long ago, I fear.  
Why, Gemma, when I married you I judged  
Your spirit by the beauty of its body;  
And that seemed so at one with what I fan-  
cied

I could not doubt that it would prove at one—  
Could we but know each other, through and  
through—

With all my soul that had conceived the  
fancy.

GEMMA. 'T was not the first time life has proved  
that poets

Are fools who judge their fancies to be facts.

DANTE. At times, my faith still thinks they  
may be facts.

Our fancies are the children of the soul,  
With rights of heritage as true as those  
Of any other form of thought. If so,  
Then their relationship may be as true—  
Though how we never now can under-  
stand—

To that which mortals term reality.

GEMMA. Past hope! Still prating of the soul!—  
as if

A man could take it out and measure it!

DANTE. The stature of the soul is measured by  
The distance of its outgrowth over earth.

GEMMA. The outgrowth, eh?—explains your  
misfit, does it?—

Oh yes!—you have outgrown your low sur-  
roundings?

DANTE. Why misinterpret me? I may not fit  
The world I live in. Did the Christ fit his?  
Could any man walk straight in paths of  
earth,

Nor trespass on some crooked paths of others?

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT, and behind him DINO.*

*Exit—Left—ATTENDANT.*

GEMMA and DANTE. Good day.

DINO. Good day.

DANTE. And is  
there any news?

DINO. There is, and bad. I thought I ought to  
warn you.

DANTE. How so?

DINO. Donati is returning soon  
With Charles of Valois, and the French to back  
him.

DANTE. The Whites will not be able to protect  
us?

DINO. The Whites have lost their leader.

DANTE. Cavalcanti  
Can be recalled now, if Donati come.

DINO. No, no; not he; he is beyond recall.

DANTE. What mean you?

DINO. He was banished by the priors  
To Sarzana.—It is the home of fevers.<sup>32</sup>

They welcomed him too warmly. He is gone.

DANTE. I never knew of fever raging there.

GEMMA. As many go astray through ignorance  
As through iniquity. Ay, there are times  
Wise rascals do less harm than righteous fools.

DANTE. You speak like that to me, and now?  
Oh God!

When all my soul sinks downward with the  
weight

Of that dead body of my friend?—no pity?

You know there was but one right thing to do.

I could not let the good of this rash friend

Outweigh the safety of the whole of Florence.

GEMMA. And yet be sure the whole of Florence  
feels

Less gratitude for you than grief for him.

His friends, at least——

DANTE. I see; and I who tried  
To meet out equal justice to a hoard  
In Church and State, all squirming here like  
worms  
To tomb their mates in dirt and mount upon  
them,

Priests cursing people, people cheating priests,  
Whites boasting of white shrouds they trail  
behind them,

Blacks of black funeral palls that follow them,  
And every one of them too mean to own

One other man the equal of himself,—

I stand the enemy of all. Oh God!—

Some spirits here may seek thy higher life,  
And help their fellows. It is not for me.



Would I mount up, I find no wings for it,  
I fall.

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT and CINO.*

*All exchange greetings.*

*Exit—Left—ATTENDANT.*

(DANTE continues to CINO).

And you, too, come to bring bad tidings?

CINO. I bring this proclamation. It concerns  
you.

*(Handing a paper to DANTE.)*

DANTE *(taking the paper and looking at it)*.

Who wrote it, and who sent it, and from  
where?

CINO. It comes here from Donati and Prince  
Charles.

They march against the city.

DANTE. But the Whites.

CINO. We have no leader, and the most are fly-  
ing.

DANTE. What says the proclamation?

CINO. It names you,  
And four besides you, summoned to appear <sup>34</sup>  
And answer for extortion and rebellion  
Against the Pope and Charles.

DANTE. Extortion? What?—  
For raising pence to keep the city's peace?—

Rebellion, towards the city's enemies?

Who charges that?

CINO. It says here, "common fame."

DANTE. What threatens those who fail to heed  
the summons?

CINO. Their property shall all be confiscated,  
Themselves be banished, and, if caught in  
Florence,  
Be burned alive.

DANTE. If I obey the summons  
And speak the truth, they will obtain their  
wish;  
I shall be caught in Florence.

CINO. You should leave.

DANTE. Too true! but, first—you are a lawyer,  
Dino—  
Draw up a paper, making over all  
My property to Gemma.

(DINO sits at the desk and writes.)

CINO (*taking DANTE to extreme Left*). Why  
not deed

The property to some one else in trust?

DANTE. Not safe! If held as mine it might be  
doomed.

Donati's niece could keep it for herself.

CINO. She might not deed it back.

DANTE. She would not take it

From her own children; and, you know, besides,

We men who wed incur a debt of honor.

CINO. But should that let one harm himself?

DANTE. Why, honor

Is in oneself, and so does not depend

On anything another is or does.

(to DINO).

The paper will be ready soon, not so?

I must prepare me, and will then return.

*Exit—Right—DANTE.*

GEMMA (to DINO). You must be sure to make all clear and certain.

CINO (to GEMMA). What will you do without him?

GEMMA. Humph!—not penance!

We do that only to the ones we worship.

CINO. So women do not worship those they marry.

GEMMA. Not after they have married them.

CINO. Why not?

GEMMA. They get too near them.

CINO. Humph! but that depends On what one means. They can not get too near

To any one in spirit.

GEMMA. What is that?

CINO. That in us which has least of body in it;

And yet, like fire, may glow when bodies meet,

And make one's whole life luminous.

GEMMA (*looking at him disparagingly*). A poet!

CINO. Yes; making poetry is practising  
The language of the spirit. I should like  
To learn to speak it altogether.

GEMMA. Should you?—  
That wish is what sends Dante now from Florence.

CINO. That wish is what sends Dante now from Florence;

I shall remember. May I quote you to him?

GEMMA. 'T will be so kind of you, reminding him of me!

*Enter—Right—DANTE.*

DANTE (*to DINO*). The writing ready?

DINO (*rising and handing the paper to him*).

Brief but clear.

DANTE (*reading it*).

I see—will sign it.

(*to CINO and DINO*).

Will you witness for me?

DANTE, CINO, and DINO *sign*.

DANTE (*handing paper to GEMMA*).

There, Gemma, well nigh all I had is yours.

You show it to your uncle. He will guard you.

(*Knocking outside.*)

CINO (*looking through the window backing at the Left*).

They seem Donati's men (*to DANTE*). They come to fetch you.

DANTE (*turning toward the door*). I——

CINO. No, you must not. (*Pointing to the Right*).

Leave the other way,  
And jump the garden fence there—in the rear.

DINO. And yet the streets are full of them.

CINO. Wait, wait!  
(*removing his own hood and cloak*).

All know your hood and cloak. Take mine.  
None think

Enough of these to stop and question them.

DANTE. First let me show myself; and make them sure

That I am here.

(*thrusting his head from the window*).

What is that you want?

VOICE. Yourself.



CINO (*looking about the room*). How is it with his writing?

Should they discover aught—

GEMMA *moves towards DANTE'S desk, CINO follows and continues.*

The speaking voice

Is like a church bell, mainly rung for service;  
But writing made for sight is like a belfry,  
And draws attention to one's need of service.

GEMMA (*pulling one from other disordered manuscripts, on the desk and tearing it, and then throwing the parts into a waste-basket*).

Not much here,—only poems!

CINO.

Yes, but they—

GEMMA (*thrusting her hand apparently against a pen that pricks it*).

One could not get a pen—I mean a penny  
For all of them. I wish his notes could store  
As much of point and sharpness, after—say—  
His pen has left them, as they seem to, now.

(CINO and DINO *exchange looks as if not relishing the remark.*)

*Loud knocking at the door.*

(GEMMA *indicates that there is nothing more in the desk.*)

CINO. Now when they come, we all should bide by this,—

That it was I who wore this hood of Dante—  
 To keep the chill off; and (to GEMMA) are  
 both your friends,  
 Who sped to tell you of Donati's coming.  
 We thus give Dante time.

DINO. Has need of time,  
 Or else will quickly get eternity.  
 Shall let them in now, eh?

*(moving toward the Left).*

CINO. Ay, ay; but lend  
 Your eye to me, and arm too, if they press me.

DINO *opens the door at the Left, then apparently  
 opens another beyond it.*

*Enter—Left—SIMONE and many ATTENDANTS.  
 They look around them, then besiege CINO,  
 who is at the Right. CINO draws his  
 sword, as do several of the ATTENDANTS.  
 After some fencing, CINO throws aside  
 his hood and cloak.*

CINO. A hood may hide a woman. This does  
 not.

Now, man to man!

SIMONE. Hold on! You are not Dante.

CINO. I never claimed to be.

SIMONE. You acted him.

ATTENDANT *(brandishing his sword).*

His false hood fits the falseness of his head.



CINO. If Dante's hood be covering my head,  
It does not cover all his head contained.

ATTENDANT. It makes you take his place.

CINO. What, I?

SIMONE. Yes, you!—

What else have you his cloak for?

CINO. It was cold.

I came here to Donati's niece,—to tell her

Donati had returned, and then I felt

A chill assail my back. This cloak has killed  
it.

Is killing chills a crime you kill a man for?

SIMONE. But where is Dante?

CINO. How should I know that?

SIMONE. He just was at the window here.

CINO. Why I—

'T was I talked there.

SIMONE. Pretending to be Dante!

CINO. Pretending?—Now by all that makes me  
human

Am I to blame that you have human nature?

You work yourselves up to a fever, see

The image of your own imagination,

Then swear 't was I caused your delirium!

SIMONE. Humph! Leave him. Search the  
house.

*Exeunt—Right—DINO and CINO.*

GEMMA (*confronting an ATTENDANT, as he turns from CINO*). Nay, you forget

I am Donati's niece.

ATTENDANT. And what of that?

This house is Dante's. You are Dante's wife.

SIMONE. He flies all colors and he follows none.

So where they fly we all are sure to track

A turncoat treacherous to every hue.

Aha, he dreamed of ending factions here:

He did it!—All unite in fighting him.

*Exit—Right—SIMONE and OTHERS.*

*Those remaining break windows and furniture.*

*Enter—Left—DONATI.*

GEMMA (*to DONATI*). What mean these creatures here creating chaos

In this, my house?

DONATI. It is the house of Dante.

GEMMA (*showing him the deed given her by DANTE*). It is mine.

DONATI (*looking at the deed*). Aha! This makes a difference.

(*to the soldiers.*) Hold, hold.

*Enter—Right—SIMONE.*

SIMONE. The house has been searched through.

DONATI. No Dante?

SIMONE. No.

DONATI. Withdraw, and set a double guard outside.

(to GEMMA.)

They wrecked things badly. Is there more of it?

GEMMA. I have not seen.

DONATI. Shall I go with you?

*Enter—Right—CINO and DINO.*

Who

Are these?

GEMMA. Some friends of mine. They just had come

To tell me they had heard of your return.

DONATI. Humph, humph! (to SIMONE). You give them passage.

*Exeunt—Left—SIMONE and ATTENDANTS.*

DINO (to DONATI). If you please,

We first would find our cloaks and hoods.

DONATI. Of course.

*Exeunt—Right—DONATI and GEMMA.*

DINO (to CINO, *collecting carefully, as he speaks, the parts of the torn manuscript in the wastebasket, and concealing them under his cloak.*)

This world contains two kinds of people,  
Cino,—

The kind who see the whole thing in its parts,  
And those who see the parts, and not the  
whole.<sup>35</sup>

CURTAIN.

## ACT SIXTH.

SCENE: *The Interior of a large Hall in the Castle of the Marquis of Malaspina in Lunigiana. Backing, at the Center, are Curtains that can be drawn aside. Near the Curtains at the Left is a Writing Desk in which are manuscripts belonging to DANTE. Entrances through the Curtains at Back, and also at the Right and the Left.*

*Enter—Right—DANTE.*

*Enter—Left—CINO.*

DANTE (*taking CINO'S hands in his*). Why, why!—Thank God to see you once again!

CINO. I, too, thank God. How are you?

DANTE. Well enough  
In body.

CINO. I am pleased to find you here  
In such environment,—so beautiful!

DANTE. Earth might have more of beauty, had  
it had  
More continence; nor spent, and spawned such  
crowds  
Between ourselves and nature. As it is,  
What tempt our taste appear too often served  
Like viands one can scarcely find for flies,

Or test for spice and pepper. Well, what news  
From Florence?

CINO. Could one call that news which but  
Repeats the same old story?—brawls and mur-  
ders?—

I had to fly myself.<sup>36</sup>

DANTE. So had I heard.

But, thank the Lord, it soon will end now.

CINO. Will?

DANTE. One time I trusted Rome—in vain.

At last,

Comes Henry of Luxemburg, the Emperor.<sup>37</sup>

Oh doubt, not him, a man of strength, have  
seen him.

CINO. Beneath your cloak you seem to wear—  
not so?—

A soldier's uniform?

DANTE. I have enlisted,

And join him. You come too—our very man!

CINO. All thought you firm of faith in the re-  
public?

DANTE. I am. No tyrant ever triumphed yet  
But first came cowards kneeling to be trod on.  
Yet something more is true. Strong self-  
control

Has never yet forsaken man or clan

Where did not enter the control of others.

Which others is the one sole question now  
 For half demented Florence. Let a grip  
 So firm that all should feel it, rein and curb  
 And guide by reason her untamed disorder,  
 Think what our people, letters, art, might do.—  
 Why, all the world of thought would focus  
 there,

And all enlightenment find there their sun!

CINO. And you have waived the student for the  
 soldier?

DANTE. I tell you, friend, say what you may  
 of thought,

Man's brawn was given him as well as brain,  
 And there are things to tramp for, things to  
 clutch,

And days for doing. They are brighter, too,  
 At times, than nights for dreaming.

CINO. You forsake  
 The path of poetry?

DANTE. Why no; not that;  
 Not wholly that! I mean a man should wield  
 And welcome, too, the whole that nature gives  
 him.

The fist is fashioned for the use of God  
 In just as true a sense as is the finger,—  
 What grasps a sword as that which guides a  
 pen.

*Enter—Right—ATTENDANT.*

DANTE (*continues to ATTENDANT*).

And are they ready?

ATTENDANT. Nay, they will not go.

DANTE. Not go?—and wherefore not?

ATTENDANT. Had you not heard?

DANTE. Heard what?

ATTENDANT. About the Emperor?—was ill.

DANTE. Oh, yes; but only slightly—could receive us.

ATTENDANT. Nay, nay;—is very ill.

DANTE. You cannot mean—

Impossible!—that he is dead?

ATTENDANT. He is.

DANTE (*to CINO*). Now heaven defend! It must not, can not be.

ATTENDANT. And there has come a rumor with it too.

DANTE. What is it?—From your mien I should infer

It matters to myself.

ATTENDANT. If you bide longer  
Within this castle, there come hints of  
war.

A patron who should shield the Emperor's  
friend

Would seem to be the foe of Italy.



DANTE. Ah, so!—I must have time to think—  
I thank you.

*Exit—Right—ATTENDANT.*

(DANTE *continues to* CINO.)

Oh Cino, Cino, did one ever dream  
A fate like mine?—a civic leper, Cino!—  
Turned out of his own home because a pest;  
And then declared a pest to every home  
That still would welcome him. This final  
blow,

It snaps the only staff remaining now  
From which my soul could wave a single sig-  
nal.

Worse off am I, than were a soldier slain,  
Ay, than a traveler in a tiger's den.  
If but these limbs were plucked out, one by  
one,

I were not doomed to live on then alone,  
An alien to all comrades, conscious ever  
That to oppose the currents coursing round  
Were vain as efforts of mere spurting spray  
To still a surging ocean. Oh, my God!—  
To live, yet be too frail to do the work  
That makes a life worth living!

CINO. I have heard  
You might go back to Florence.

DANTE. How is that?—

Go back to Florence?—what?—and see those  
hills,

My home, my children, friends, and have a  
voice,

And be again a man with countrymen!—

Ah, say not that,—not if it be not true!

The brute-despair my soul has housed so long  
Is trained to bear hard blows, and beat them  
back;

But this frail trembling babe of hope, just  
born,

Oh it were cruel murder, maiming it!

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT.*

ATTENDANT (*to DANTE*). Some gentlemen with-  
out are waiting for you.

CINO. They now may bring the hope I men-  
tioned.

DANTE. Yes.

*He bows to the ATTENDANT.*

*Exit—Left—ATTENDANT.*

CINO (*to DANTE*). Shall I retire?

DANTE (*gesturing toward the Right Entrance*).

'T were well. If seen with me,

My shadow might shed blackness on yourself.

CINO. The blackest shadows fall from brightest  
forms.

*Exit—Right—CINO.*

*Enter—Left—*ATTENDANT, SIMONE, and OTHER  
DELEGATES.

*All exchange bows.*

DANTE (*to those entering*). You come from  
Florence, gentlemen?

SIMONE. We do;  
And from your friends there.

DANTE. Have I friends there?—Thank you.

SIMONE. And they have thought it better for  
our peace,

And for the peace of other cities near us,  
To end this feud between ourselves and you.

DANTE. And I return?—What then are their  
conditions? <sup>38</sup>

SIMONE. Confession, and repentance, and your  
fines,

The stigma of oblation, and a robe  
Of penitence worn round the city.

DANTE. Humph!—  
A fool's cap, too, like that which I am told

Was worn by Lippus Lapi Ciolo?—<sup>39</sup>

And what about my wife?—would like to  
watch

Her Dante decorate a scene like that?

SIMONE. She is Donati's niece.

DANTE. If I return,  
I come as husband of Donati's niece?

And follower of his family and faction?—  
 Present my compliments, bid all have patience.  
 Not far away, a place is waiting those  
 Who wish to damn a soul for doing right,  
 In which that sort of thing is done much better.

SIMONE. But—

DANTE. No; there is no but. God gives each  
 man

One life where kindle feeling, thought, and  
 will;—

And bids him hold it like a torch on high  
 To light himself and others. Do you claim  
 That he should lower it?

SIMONE. Why, in form, perhaps;  
 And forms of different shape hold torches.

DANTE. None  
 Can ever plunge the torch beneath earth's mire  
 And keep it burning. Yield in form you  
 say?—

In form our frames but vehicle the truth;  
 Yet by its vehicle the world will rate it.  
 When comes the splendor of a monarch's  
 march

Men cheer his chariot, not his character.  
 Should I let mine trail, broken, bruised, be-  
 mired,  
 The world would hiss both car and occupant.

*Enter—Right—ATTENDANT.*

DANTE *pauses and bows to ATTENDANT.*

ATTENDANT. The Marquis comes. Perhaps you would receive him.

DANTE. Yes. (*to DELEGATES.*) Pardon me.

*Exit—Right—DANTE and ATTENDANT.*

SIMONE. A game-cock crowing yet, eh?

But when they drive him from his present dunghill,

He scarce will clap his wings with such a whur.

No further need deceiving him, I take it!

None here will now oppose our seizing him.

(*pointing to the writing desk, toward which several DELEGATES move.*)

But first the desk, in it to find the list

Of Florence traitors, banded to uphold

The Emperor. Come their owner back, provoke him,

And thus invoke the fiend in him to furnish

Excuses to offset the fiend in us.

*Enter—Right—DANTE.*

DANTE (*seeing the DELEGATES handling his papers*). What mean you?

SIMONE. We are gathering information.

A man so learned should encourage us.

DANTE. I thought that you were gentlemen  
from Florence.

SIMONE. Yes, dealing with a traitor from Ve-  
rona.

DANTE. Put back those papers.

SIMONE. When we strip your corpse,  
And make your suit a sack to pack them in.

DANTE (*drawing his sword*). It will be wet  
and heavy when you do,  
And fewer of you left to carry it.

(DELEGATES *draw swords*.)

*Enter—Right—the MARQUIS with ATTENDANTS  
and CINO.*

MARQUIS. Wait!—What is this?—You think we  
dwell in Florence?

Or fail to furnish guests with knives to  
carve

What leaves our larder?—You, forsooth, must  
ply

Your own blades in each others' carcasses?

DANTE. They seized my papers, and would  
seize my person.

MARQUIS (*to SIMONE and OTHERS*). Return  
the papers, and return your persons  
To your own city.

SIMONE. Pardon, we were told  
This traitor would no longer be your guest.

MARQUIS. He is my guest, while here. I say  
farewell.

*(He bows to SIMONE and DELEGATES,  
toward whom some of the ATTENDANTS  
of the MARQUIS move.)*

*Exeunt—Left—SIMONE and DELEGATES, fol-  
lowed by some of the ATTENDANTS.*

DANTE *(to MARQUIS)*. No guest should be a  
pest and peril to you.

MARQUIS. Nor I to him. Till you decide to  
leave us,

You shall not lack protection.

DANTE. After that,  
My soul will lack what more I need,—a friend.

MARQUIS. I wish to speak to you of that—  
but later.

*Exeunt—Right—MARQUIS and ATTENDANTS.*

CINO *(to DANTE)*. Where shall you go?

DANTE. Oh, high  
up in the Alps,

Too high for anyone to follow me.

CINO. To be too high for that, you need no  
Alps.

DANTE. Your phrase is kindly meant, my Cino,  
yet

Conceive how barren, cold, and colorless  
Is life upon the heights.

CINO. Conceive, as well,  
 How far, and broad, and varied, and sublime  
 Are earth and heaven when these are seen from  
 them.

Souls oft are driven from our lower life  
 That thus they may explore for us the higher.

DANTE. You mean that when a man is bound,  
 feet, limbs,  
 Trunk, head, he has no weapon left him save  
 His voice. How well that I have kept these  
 notes here!

*(gesturing toward his desk).*

The slowest lines of thought are like the light-  
 ning's

In this,—they never track the same trail twice.  
 Had these been lost, they had been lost forever.

CINO. Your pardon, friend; nor deem it strange  
 in me

That, when we met, my spirit's agitation  
 So wrenched the links of memory that they  
 failed

To hold together that which chiefly joined  
 My journey hither and my thought of you.

*(taking the objects mentioned from his  
 pocket and presenting them to DANTE.)*

This miniature, Giotto's Beatrice,  
 His work and gift.



DANTE (*taking it from CINO*).

Oh, Cino, thank you, thank you.

How kind of him to send it!

CINO (*taking manuscripts from his pocket*).

These were rescued

By Dino Frescobaldi from your home

What time the mob made havoc of all else.<sup>35</sup>

DANTE (*taking and examining the manuscripts*.)

Why, Cino, do you know what you have done?

That day, when, as you thought, my love appeared,

She bade me write of what I just had dreamt.

While fresh in mind I sketched it, hued by all  
The glory of imagination's dawn.

'T is here; nor since I lost it, head or heart  
Has ventured to supply a substitute.

Yet, void of it, the path of thought I trod  
Seemed like a day's where comes no sun. But  
now—

CINO. Can mount, and, though none follow,  
make all hear

Your voice come crying from the wilderness.<sup>36</sup>

You know, in ancient times, it was the poets,  
Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Hosea,

Revealed the truth. The priests could but  
repeat it.

DANTE. And now ours need their repertoire renewed?

CINO. They do; nor doubt that poets can renew it.

Though no new message may inspire them, insight

May often read through oldest form new meaning.

DANTE. Ay, less the lack of truth makes mortals fools

Than lack in thinking of the truth they have.

One thing, at least, my Cino, life has taught me,—

That reason's God must be a God of reason.

If so, there lives no right but reason fashions;

Nor is there aught that should seem right to man

That fits not reasons fashioned by himself.

So those who know they own an understanding,

And know how all things earthly join to train it,

Yet think of God as all misunderstood,

Must think with minds whose methods are the devil's.

Pray heaven that we too join not in their error.

I oft have asked, my Cino, why it is  
That all the world should hurl at one like me,  
From state and church and home, what harms  
my life

Well nigh beyond what slew the martyr  
Stephen?—

Why must one live all buried save his voice?—  
For nothing?—Nay; the paths of Providence  
Were never plotted yet without some plan.

If God be one, his realm has unity;  
And that quick blade of death, which cleaves  
the reins

And splits the wheels with which we race  
through life,

Is but a mystic wand beyond whose touch  
A hidden life speeds on to reach the bar  
Of everlasting justice.<sup>40</sup> Where that waits  
What need to prove? one merely needs to  
show,

From what life now is, what life shall become.  
So I would do; and warn men not to take  
Mere earth and sky for that one priceless  
jewel,

The soul, that they encase. With gaze on it,  
The men who keep their spirits clean and clear  
From touch or taint of selfishness or vice,  
May oft behold in depths of inner life

Which nearest lie to nature's inner life,  
 The image and the presence that reveal  
 The power and purposes that are divine.

*Enter—Left—ATTENDANT.*

*(He bows to DANTE, who returns the bow.)*

ATTENDANT *(gesturing toward CINO).*

A stranger here would see the gentleman.

*Exit—Left—ATTENDANT.*

CINO. Then "Au revoir," my Dante. Do you  
 know,

Your words recall what once our aged tutor,  
 Latini, taught us?

DANTE.

What was that?

CINO.

Why, this,—

A poet like a poem is a product.

*Exit—Left—after shaking hands with DANTE,*

CINO.

DANTE *looks toward CINO, as he leaves; then, taking from his pocket, where he has placed them, the miniature of Beatrice, and also the manuscripts brought him, and holding them in his hands, and gazing at them fondly, he walks slowly toward the Curtains at the rear. He disappears behind them. A moment later, they separate, revealing the Closing Tableau.*

## CLOSING TABLEAU.

*The Piazza di Santa Croce in Florence, Italy.  
Backing is the Church of Santa Croce. In  
front of it, on its Pedestal, is the great Statue  
of DANTE as it now stands. If thought best,  
BEATRICE and OTHERS may be grouped below  
it.*

CURTAIN.

END OF THE DRAMA.

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NOTES UPON DANTE

<sup>1</sup> "When first the glorious lady of my mind was made manifest to mine eyes, even she who was called Beatrice, . . . she appeared to me at the beginning of her ninth year almost, and I saw her almost at the end of my ninth year. Her dress on that day was of a most noble color, a subdued and goodly crimson, girded and adorned in such a sort as best suited with her very tender age. At that moment, I say most truly that the spirit of life, which hath its dwelling in the secretest chamber of the heart, began to tremble so violently that the least pulses of my body shook therewith. . . . In my boyhood I often went in search of her, and found her so noble and praiseworthy that certainly of her might have been said those words of the poet Homer,

'she seemed to me the daughter not of a mortal man but of God.'"—*Dante's La Vita Nuova*, pp. 23, 24, 26, from the translation, as are all other of the following quotations from the same, of Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

2 "To the Florentine poets of this new school belonged . . . Dino Frescobaldi. . . . But the greatest of them are Guido Cavalcanti, Cino de' Sinibuldi da Pistoja, and, in his youthful poems, Dante himself."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, p. 132.

3 "After the lapse of so many days that nine years exactly were completed since the above written appearance of this most gracious being, on the last of those days it happened that the same wonderful lady appeared to me dressed all in pure white between two gentle ladies. . . . She turned her eyes thither where I stood sorely abashed. . . . She saluted me with so virtuous a bearing that I seemed then and there to behold the very limits of blessedness. The hour of her most sweet salutation was exactly the ninth of that day; and because it was the first time that any words from her reached mine ears, I came into such sweetness that I parted thence as one intoxicated."—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 27.

4 "Of the poems contained in the book (*La Vita Nuova*) the first, as Dante himself informs us, was composed in his eighteenth year. . . . According to the custom of his time, he sent it to several poets, who answered it. Some of these answers are extant. Among them is a sonnet by Guido Cavalcanti."—*Federn's Dante and his Time*, pp. 204, 205.

5“It is interesting to read in Dino’s book, who equally belonged to the White party, by what reasons, according to his opinion, influential Florentines had been decided to follow either party. Guido Cavalcanti had done so ‘because he was a personal enemy of Corso Donati.’”—*Federn’s Dante and His Time*, p. 172.

6“As I sat alone, I betook myself to draw the resemblance of an angel upon certain tablets. And while I did thus, chancing to turn my head, I perceived that some were standing beside me to whom I should have given courteous welcome, and that they were observing what I did; also, I learned afterwards that they had been there a while before I perceived them.”—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 135.

7“What time she made ready to salute me, the spirit of love destroying all other perceptions, thrust forth the feeble spirits of mine eyes, saying, ‘Do homage unto your mistress,’ and, putting itself in their place to obey; so that he who would might then have beheld Love, beholding the lids of mine eyes shake, And when this most gentle lady gave her salutation, Love . . . bred in me such an overpowering sweetness that my body, being all subjected thereto, remained many times helpless and passive.”—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 46, 47.

8“I was in a place whence mine eyes could behold their beatitude; and betwixt me and her, in a direct line, there sat another lady of a pleasant favor; who looked round at me many times, marveling at my continued gaze which seemed to have her for its object. And many perceived that she thus looked; so that, de-

parting hence, I heard it whispered after me, 'Look you to what a pass such a lady hath brought him'; and in saying this they named her who had been midway between the most gentle Beatrice and mine eyes. Therefore I was reassured, and knew that, for that day, my secret had not been become manifest. Then immediately it came into my mind that I might make use of this lady as a screen to the truth, and so well did I play my part that the most of those who had hitherto watched and wondered at me, now imagined they had found me out. By her means I kept my secret concealed so till some years were gone over; and, for my better security, I even made divers rhymes in her honor."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 33, 34.

9 "He (Cavalcanti) was married for political reasons. . . . Rossetti sees a tendency in him to mingle 'the perversity of a logician' with 'his amorous poetry.'"—*Ragg's Dante and His Italy*, pp. 270, 282. . . . "His father, Cavalcanti, was a notorious sceptic and materialist. . . . Guido, too, passed for a sceptic."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, p. 199.

10 "Then, musing on what I had seen, I proposed to relate the same to many poets who were famous in that day; and, for that I had made myself in some sort the art of discoursing with rhyme, I resolved on making a sonnet. . . . I determined that I would make a grievous sonnet thereof the which I will write here, because it hath certain words in it whereof my lady was the immediate cause. These words I laid up with great gladness. . . . Wherefore having returned to the city I spake of, and considered thereof during cer-



tain days, I began a poem. . . . After I had recovered from my sickness, I bethought me to write these things in rhyme; deeming it a lovely thing to be known. . . . And to the end that this inward strife which I had undergone might not be hidden from all saving the miserable wretch who endured it, I proposed to write a sonnet and to comprehend in it this horrible condition. . . . And because I would willingly have spoken to them, if it had not been for discreteness, I made in my rhymes as though I had spoken, and they had answered me. And thereof I wrote two sonnets; in the first of which I addressed them as I would fain have done; and in the second related their answer as though it had been spoken unto myself."—*From Dante's own accounts in the Vita Nuova of his method of accepting from his experiences suggestions for his poems, pp. 29, 35, 87, 95, 142.*

11 "To this sonnet I received many answers, conveying many different opinions; of the which one was sent by him whom I now call the first among my friends. . . . And indeed it was when he learned that I was he who had sent those rhymes to him, that our friendship commenced" (The friend of whom Dante here speaks was Guido Cavalcanti—Rossetti). *La Vita Nuova* p. 31.

"The responsive sonnet breathes a spirit of encouragement and comfort; it is the elder poet taking the younger by the hand and bidding him be of good cheer."—*Ragg's Dante and His Italy, p. 283.*

12 Seeing that the epistle I speak of is in Latin, it belongeth not to mine undertaking; more especially

as I know that my chief friend, for whom I write this book, wished also that the whole of it should be in the vulgar tongue."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 123, 124.

<sup>13</sup> "In the year 1289 Dante . . . took part in the battle of Campaldino where the Florentine Guelfs, 15,000 men strong, defeated the Ghibellines and the people of Arezzo. . . . Dante served . . . at the siege of the castle of Caprona . . . in August of the same year."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, pp. 201, 202.

<sup>14</sup> "When I behold Bacchina in a rage  
 Just like a little lad I trembling stand  
 Whose master tells him to hold out his hand.—  
*Cecco Angiolieri, another of Dante's literary friends who sings the praises of his rather shrewish lady-love, Bacchina.*"—*Ragg's Dante and His Italy*, p. 197.

<sup>15</sup> "From that time forward, Love quite governed my soul. . . . I had nothing left for it but to do all his bidding continually . . . albeit her image . . . was yet of so perfect a quality that it never allowed me to be overruled by Love without the faithful counsel of reason whensoever such counsel was useful."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 25, 26.

<sup>16</sup> "Cosmo Donati was the leader of the Blacks—'a knight after the fashion of the Roman Catiline, but more cruel than he, of noble blood and handsome appearance, a perfect orator with the finest manners, acutest mind and the very worst disposition,' that is Dino Compagni's description of him. The very

beginning of his career was a violence done to law, for he liberated a criminal of noble birth with armed force. In the battle of Campaldino, it was he who decided the victory by a cavalry attack which he had been forbidden under penalty of death, to make."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, pp. 171, 172.

<sup>17</sup> "In the year 1289, the one preceding the death of Beatrice, Dante served with the foremost cavalry in the great battle of Campaldino, . . . when the Florentines defeated the people of Arezzo."—*Introduction to Dante's Vita Nuova*, by D. Rossetti.

<sup>18</sup> "It came into my mind that I might make use of this lady as a screen to the truth; and so well did I play my part that those who had hitherto watched and wondered at me, now imagined they had found me out. . . . I made her my surety in such sort that the matter was spoken of by many in terms scarcely courteous; through the which I had oftenwhiles many troublesome hours. And by this it happened (to wit, by this false and evil rumor which seemed to misfame me of vice) that she who was the destroyer of all evil and the queen of all good, coming where I was, denied me her most sweet salutation, in the which alone was my blessedness."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 33, 45.

<sup>19</sup> "In her salutation alone was there any beatitude for me. . . . When, for the first time, this beatitude was denied me, I became possessed with such grief that, parting myself from others, I went into a lonely place to bathe the ground with most bitter tears."—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 47.

<sup>20</sup> "This excellent lady came into such favor with all men that not only she herself was honored and commended, but through her companionship honor and commendation came unto others. . . . When she drew near unto any, so much truth and simplicity entered into his heart . . . she showed herself so gentle and so full of all perfection, that she bred in those who looked upon her a soothing quiet beyond any speech."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 115, 112, 113.

<sup>21</sup> "I, as was my friend's pleasure, resolved to stand with him and do honor to those ladies. But soon as I had thus resolved, I began to feel a faintness and a throbbing at my left side, which soon took possession of my whole body. Whereupon . . . being fearful lest my trembling should be discerned of them, I lifted mine eyes to look on those ladies, and then first perceived among them the excellent Beatrice. And when I perceived her, all my senses were overpowered, by the great lordship that love obtained, finding himself so near . . . until nothing but the spirits of sight remained in me; and even these remained driven out of their own instruments."—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 59.

<sup>22</sup> "I received the visit of a friend whom I counted as second unto me in the degrees of friendship (Cino) and who, moreover, had been united by the nearest kindred to that most gracious creature. And when we had a little spoken together, he began to solicit me that I should write somewhat in memory of a lady who had died; and he disguised his speech so as to seem to be speaking of another who was but lately dead; wherefore, I,

perceiving that his speech was of none other than that blessed one herself, told him that it should be done as he required."—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 130.

<sup>23</sup> "After this most gracious creature had gone out from among us, the whole city came to be, as it were, widowed and despoiled of all its dignity."—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 123.

<sup>24</sup> "Then having sat for some space sorely in thought because of the time that was now past, I was so filled with dolorous imaginings that it became outwardly manifest in mine altered countenance. Whereupon feeling this, and being in dread lest any should have seen me, I lifted mine eyes to look; and then perceived a young and very beautiful lady. . . . It happened after this that, whenever I was seen of this lady, she became pale and of a piteous countenance, as though it had been with love; whereby she remembered me many times of my own most noble lady who was wont to be of a like paleness."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 138, 140.

<sup>25</sup> "At length by the constant sight of this lady, mine eyes began to be gladdened overmuch with her company, through which many times I had unrest and rebuked myself as a base person; also many times I cursed the unsteadfastness of mine eyes."—*La Vita Nuova*, pp. 141, 142.

<sup>26</sup> "The Pope by secret understanding with the Blacks sent the French Prince, Charles of Valois, as 'pacificator' to Florence. 'He came with the lance of Judas,' Dante says."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, p. 245.

<sup>27</sup> "Dante was no longer a religious pilgrim but a political ambassador. 'Why are you Florentines so obstinate?' said the Pope. . . . 'Go back, two of you,' he said, 'and they shall have my benediction if they procure that my will be obeyed.' . . . Two to go, and one to stay. . . . Which of the three shall it be? Boniface had seen Dante face to face; here was the man who might thwart him. Better to keep this one in honorable imprisonment till the thing should be over and done. Was it not during these months when he was forced into unsympathetic intimacy with the inner life of St. Peter's . . . that he acquired that fine scorn of the venal and simoniacal Roma Cura which made him declare, in after years, that during this very year of Jubilee his exile was being planned in the place where all day long they made merchandise of Christ."—*Ragg's Dante and His Italy*, pp. 32, 33.

<sup>28</sup> "Dante's own estimate of Cino is clear from the abundant references in the *Eloquentia* where Dante habitually speaks of himself as 'Cino's friend.' . . . The first and strongest bond of sympathy was that sympathy of mind and taste."—*Dante and His Italy*; *Ragg*, pp. 286, 287.

<sup>29</sup> "Witchcraft and necromancy were normal factors in daily life."—*Ragg's Dante and His Italy*, p. 144. "Divination and necromancy were largely resorted to in moments of crisis."—*Idem.*, p. 143. "So great a hold had these mission preachers on the popular imagination, that a very general belief was entertained in their miraculous powers, and some of them had the

reputation of being able to raise the dead.”—*Idem*, pp. 97, 98. “The Florentines whose reputation for wit was . . . great . . . on hearing that the Dominican John of Vicenza contemplated a visit to Florence . . . cried out in mock alarm: ‘For heaven’s sake don’t let him come here. For we have heard that he raises the dead, and we are already so many that our city will scarcely hold us.’”—*Idem.*, p. 200.

<sup>30</sup> “After writing this sonnet, it was given unto me to behold a very wonderful vision, wherein I saw things which determined me that I would say nothing further of this most blessed one until such time as I could discourse more worthily concerning her. And to this end I labor all I can, as she well knoweth. Wherefore if it be his pleasure through whom is the life of all things, that my life continue with me a few years, it is my hope that I shall yet write concerning her what hath not before been written of any woman. After which may it seem good unto him who is the Master of Grace that my spirit should go hence to behold the glory of its lady; to wit, of that blessed Beatrice who now gazeth continually on his countenance *qui est omnia sæcula benedictus. Laus Deo.*”—*The concluding paragraph of La Vita Nuova*, p. 159. “As he explains it, the heavenly powers by mediation of loving and friendly spirits had so decreed it that his soul should be shown the way through the metaphysical realms where he could see the terrible retribution of God’s justice and be satisfied.”—*Federn’s Dante and His Time*, p. 269. From the accounts given, we must infer that Dante supposed himself to have had an external vision of Beatrice, clearly separated from that which

might be experienced in a mere dream: and that this vision made "through the mediation of loving and friendly spirits," was of such a character as to cause him to spend most of the rest of his life developing from his own imagination the general conception of justice underlying his great poem. The scene in Act Fourth of this drama represents a very common, if not the most common, way in which, in all ages, men have been led to suppose themselves to have had an external vision of one dead; as well as the most common way in which, having had it, the vision has induced them to develop the general thought which, at the time of having it, has controlled them. The fact that Dante, so frank with reference to every other experience related in *La Vita Nuova*, never explained the circumstances or character of this vision, is in exact accord with what we should expect from a wise man conscious of the possibilities of delusion and deception connected with an experience such as is depicted in the drama. He would not have risked the danger of being thought a consulter of sorcerers, many of whom in those times were disreputable violators of the law, or of being thought a dupe of a monk of the church, following their practices in a supposed more legitimate way. At the same time, in the circumstances, notwithstanding much that could not absolutely convince himself, much less others, it is perfectly conceivable that the poet's sympathetic and imaginative nature should have been so profoundly influenced by the possibilities suggested by what he had experienced that this should have had a formative effect upon his whole career.—*The Author.*

<sup>31</sup> "The sight of this lady brought me into so un-



wanted a condition that I often thought of her as one too dear to me; and I began to consider her thus. . . . Perhaps it was Love himself who set her in my path, so that my life might find peace. And there were times when I thought yet more fondly, until my heart consented unto its reasoning. But, when it had so consented, my thought would often turn round upon me as moved by reason and cause me to say within myself, 'What hope is this which would console me after so base a fashion?'"—*La Vita Nuova*, p. 144. "Boccaccio tells us that Dante was married to Gemma Donati about a year after the death of Beatrice. Can Gemma then be the 'lady' . . . his love for whom Dante so condemns?"—*Rossetti's note on the preceding passage*.

<sup>32</sup> "At the burial of a lady of the Frescobaldi family, a man's movements that had been misunderstood, had caused bloodshed. . . . In the year 1300, while Dante was one of the priors, they made an attempt to insure peace by banishing the most unruly chiefs of both parties. Among the exiled blacks was Corso Donati, while Dante, with his severe sense of justice, had suffered his friend Cavalcanti to be confined at Sarzana, where he fell ill from the unhealthy climate, and died . . . two months later."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, p. 240. " 'This unhappy Priorate,' he once said, 'was the cause of all my misfortune.' "—*Idem.*, p. 240.

<sup>33</sup> "Dante at this time contracted such enormous debts that many years later the family saw itself

constrained to sell estates to pay them.”—*Federn’s Dante and His Time*, p. 239.

<sup>34</sup> “The decree against Dante which to this day may be read in the so-called Libro del Chiode in the archive of Florence. . . . Dante and four others are condemned for speculation, fraud, extortion, bribery, and rebellion against the Pope and Charles . . . as proof, public fame is alleged. . . . Having failed to appear in court, all the accused in it were declared outlaws and exiles in perpetuity, and if ever one of them should be caught on Florence soil he should be burned alive.”—*Federn’s Dante and His Time*, pp. 246, 247.

<sup>35</sup> “Then there is Dino Frescobaldi, ‘famous rhymer of Florence,’ through whom, if Boccaccio is to be trusted, Dante received back in exile the original draft of the first seven cantos of the Inferno.”—*Ragg’s Dante and His Italy*, p. 273. “They had been left behind, with everything else, in Florence. . . . hurriedly concealed . . . when he was exiled. . . . And with the manuscript, says Boccaccio, came a fervent letter to the Marquis . . . urging him to persuade Dante to continue so great a work. And so, at the urgent plea of his host Dante was induced to proceed. . . . And for this good advice of the Malaspina Dante was so grateful, says Benvenuto, that he could never say anything good enough of the family.”—*Idem.*, pp. 332, 333.

<sup>36</sup> “Cino . . . was exiled . . . five years after Dante had been cast out of Florence, in 1307, the mem-

orable year of the advent of Henry VII. . . . One of Cino's poems deserves the lasting approbation of posterity, for in it he urges Dante to continue his great poem and so redeem the pledge given at the end of the *Vita Nuova*."—*Ragg's Dante and His Italy*, pp. 286, 287.

<sup>37</sup> "In the year 1310, Henry of Luxemburg came to Italy. By no one was he saluted with such exultation as by Dante. He wrote letters full of wild and triumphant joy to Rome and Florence and to all princes of Italy. He had an audience with the Emperor; and in his letters he calls him the 'new Moses' and 'the Lamb of God.' He was full of the most ardent hopes . . . but the enterprise failed, and the Emperor died at Buonconvento on August 24, 1312. . . . What Dante felt at this blow he never expressed. Now all was over, all hope gone forever. . . . Again he wandered a banished fugitive on unknown ways."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, p. 262.

<sup>38</sup> "This then has been signified to me through the letters . . . of several friends that if I were willing to pay a certain sum of money and submit to the stigma of being offered up as a sin-offering, I might be pardoned and return at once. . . . Far from a man . . . be the reckless humility of a heart of dirt that would allow him like a certain Cioli . . . to make an offering of himself, as if he were a caitiff. . . . If any other way can be discerned which does not touch the fame of Dante and his honor, that I will accept with alacrity. But if by no such way, Florence is to be entered, then Florence I shall never enter."—*Letter*

of Dante tr. on page 127 of *A Handbook to Dante* by Thomas Davidson.

<sup>39</sup> "Some suppose the individual in question to be a certain Lippo Lapi Cioli, who among others is said to have been allowed to return to Florence in 1316 on condition that he should walk behind the Carroccio with a fool's cap on his head, etc."—*Dictionary of Proper Names, etc., in the Works of Dante* by Paget Trynbee.

<sup>40</sup> "Already at the time when Beatrice had been lost to him, and his thoughts followed her into the other world, his mind was deeply and intensely occupied with the Invisible, and his imagination attracted by its glories and hidden terrors . . . His eye pierced through the boundaries of time and space into the surrounding sphere of eternity; the wrongs done here were repaired and punished there. To see this, it had become necessary or, as he explains it, the heavenly power by mediation of loving and friendly spirits had so decreed that his soul should be shown the way through the metaphysical realms where he could see the terrible retribution of God's justice and be satisfied. . . . The state of horrible crime on earth was not all—the last word was not spoken here—he could be calmer and endure all knowing what was to follow."—*Federn's Dante and His Time*, pp. 268, 269.

MOUNTAINS ABOUT WILLIAMSTOWN



## GREYLOCK.

FRIEND of my youth, my first of mountain  
friends,

Friend long before I saw thee, in the days  
When, dwelling in a realm of endless plains,  
Those whom thy shade had haunted pointed  
out

The clouds, and bade me find thine image  
there,—

With what delight my heart first welcomed  
thee!

And then, like one whose form lies prone in  
sleep,

My young imagination woke and rose  
And strove to climb, and heaven alone can  
tell

How wisely has been climbing ever since.  
With what delight, day after day, for years,  
My eyes would watch thee looming through  
the light

Of early morn, and how they since have longed  
For thee when absent! Nor, at any time—

Not after years had parted us—did not  
The sight of thee outdo all expectation.

The works of human art may lose their charm.  
The picture, statue, building, wear no mail  
That can resist the subtle shafts of time.  
Their brightest color fades, their bronze corrodes,  
Their carving crumbles, and their marble  
falls.

Oft, too, when one has wandered far from  
home,  
And craves the things he once thought wrought  
so well,

The soul's enlargement of the treasures missed  
That each may fit a niche of larger longing  
Will make all seem, when seen again, but  
small,

And, tested by the touch of present fact,  
But fabrics of a dream conjured by fancy.  
Not so with works of Nature. Years that pass  
May make the field more brilliant with more  
flowers,

The ore more precious and the cave more vast,  
And every mount, at our renewed return,  
Soar higher like thick smoke above a flame  
Fanned into ardor by the panting breath  
Of fleet-spiced winds that rush to its embrace.



And so with thee, O Greylock! Thou art yet  
More grand, more beautiful, than when, of yore,  
I sought thee, in that earliest rash attempt  
To climb thy heights by scaling first the steeps  
Of Prospect, pulled through thorny under-  
brush

From limb to limb, like some primeval man  
When mounting rounds of some Ygdrasil tree;  
Or when I tried that long, but shorter, course  
That first essays Bald Mountain; or, again,  
Sought first the Notch. To-day, as always  
comes

That sense of restful triumph when one nears  
Those overshadowing forests that emboss  
That glorious bowl, the Hopper!—when one  
treads

Those winding paths amid thick arching trees  
Where, in the lack of outlook, naught can solve  
The mystery of the height save lungs that breathe  
The thrill and uplift of a purer air;  
And where, like spirits that have been inspired  
But never can be conscious how or when,  
Keen thoughts will still outpace achievement,  
till,

All suddenly, upon the eye will burst  
The unobstructed vision from thy peak,—  
The hills that sweep from Adams at thy base

To far Monadnock and the emulous mounts  
 That rise, as if from crowds that would be  
     counted,  
 Above the hardly hid Connecticut.

Oh, some may praise the plain! It has its use  
 For plow and reaper, railway and canal;  
 But all that human hand could ever plant  
 Or thought invent, or energy transport  
 Could never, through long ages, bring to-  
     gether

What here were gathered in a few short hours,—  
 A wealth of mound and meadow to suffice  
 For many a county, all rolled up in one,  
 A hundred miles of surface in a score,  
 A score of climates in a single mile,  
 And all the treasury of plant or rock  
 From half a continent arrayed against  
 The slopes that flank a solitary valley.  
 Who says there are no wiser views of life  
 Where every view displays a wider range?  
 More blest a decade spent in scenes like this  
 Than ages in some never-ending plain.

And what of those here who can never climb  
 These heights, or gaze upon their heaven-like  
     vision?—

Did ever yet a form appear on earth  
Divine in mission that would fail to bless  
Those, too, who could but touch its garment's  
hem?

As long as thinking can be shaped by things,  
And that which holds our life can mold our  
love,

What soul can seek the skies with wistful gaze  
And be content with only soil below?

Oh, does it profit naught that one should dwell  
Amid surroundings that no eyes can see  
Save as they look above, no feet can leave,  
To seek the outer world, save as they climb?  
Where every prospect homes itself on high,  
And each horizon seems a haunt of heaven?  
One might believe, O Mount, as on thy sides  
The thumb-marks of the Hopper show them-  
selves,

That thou wast made a handle, humpt and huge,  
Which some magician of the sky could wield  
While in the hollow basin at thy base  
All things were lifted to a loftier life!

How blest the child whose thought begins to  
build

Ideals of deeds on dreams that, morn by morn,  
Awake to greet a mother's flushing face

That bends above his cradle! Many a soul  
 Reared in these valleys where, like mighty  
     sides  
 Of some far grander cradle, lift these hills,  
 And where in bleakest wintry skies appears  
 Thy mountain's white brow warmed with flush  
     of dawn,  
 Has waked to see thee, day by day, until  
 The habit grew a part of life itself  
 And ruled his being,—that whatever light  
 Left heaven or lit the earth would find his form  
 In paths where it was always moving upward.

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BERLIN MOUNTAIN.

**T**HIS world is wider than the range of work,  
 Nor shows its worth through merely garnered gains.  
 Yon barren mount where only scrub oaks grow  
 May yield, at times, a harvest for the soul  
 More rich than ever filled the fertilest farm.  
 Think not that every leaf that sprouts in spring  
 Must be a stem straight-pointed toward a  
     flower;  
 That every bud must bring a blossom-nest  
 In which to hatch and home a future fruit.

Full many a leaf can only catch the shower  
And quench the dry limb's thirst; full many  
a bud

Grow bright alone as might a short-lived spark  
Aglow to show some source of kindled fra-  
grance;—

Ay, ay, aglow to show itself a part and partner  
Of that mysterious worship in which all  
The worlds are joined, the while they hang on  
high

Like golden censers, hidden though they gleam,  
And fill with sweetness heaven's dim dome  
above us.

In every sphere, beyond what merely meets  
The first demand of need, there issues forth  
A constant overflow. 'T is this that brings  
More sunlight than the eye of toil exhausts,  
More summer rain than clears and cools the air  
Where smoke and flame the world's too heated  
axles.

'T is this regales the hunger of fatigue  
By foretastes of refreshment never failing,  
And shows, beyond the prisons of this earth,  
Through opening gates, the free expanse of  
heaven.

Without this overflow, no wish could play,

No thought could dream, no fancy slip the links  
 Of logic, and wing off with childlike faith  
 And poise o'er mysteries too deep for sight.  
 Without it, not one poet would repeat  
 His empty echoes of life's humdrum work,  
 His rhythmic laughter of disburdened thought.  
 Without it, not one artist would essay  
 To mimic Nature when it molds to gems  
 Its melting worthlessness, or, like a wizard,  
 Waves with its wand to welcome bubbling  
     froth  
 And turn to amber that which aimed for air.  
 Without it, ah, without it, there would be  
 No life of life more grand by far than all  
 That worlds can outline or that minds con-  
     ceive,—  
 No wings to lift aloft our thrilling souls  
 And bear them on, unconscious how or why,  
 Far past all limits of all earth-moved thought  
 Until, at last, they seem to reach the verge  
 Of heaven's infinity.

Meantime, confined

Where only finite form can hint of what  
 Inspires formation, many souls there are—  
 Oh, may I join them!—who, in all things  
     earthly,

Behold what evermore transfigures earth.  
No scene can greet them but it brings to sight  
Far less than to suggestion; not a tone  
Whose harmony springs not from overtones;  
And not a partial stir but, like a pulse,  
It registers what heart-beat moves the whole.

So let this valley grow its flower and fruit.  
So let the minds that fill the valley fare  
On food they find in book and business.  
Give me the flowerless leaf, the fruitless branch,  
The mountain pushing up to barrenness,  
The scrub-oak and the rock—and, oh, the view!  
Away with work, and let me, free from care,  
Mount on and up!—No weak distractions now;  
No wait at Flora's Glen; no word to hint  
Her modest welcome and her wanton wiles!  
They seldom lured me in the past, and here—  
Why, here, at present, look!—there lifts Bee  
Hill!

Come, serve with me, my day-long moun-  
taineer,  
Our short apprenticeship, and compass this  
Before the longer climb that waits beyond;—  
Ay, like an archer when he tries his bow,  
Essay this littler bend; and, by-and-by,  
Our limbs will limber for the larger aim.

Now tramp we up the last vale's long ascent;  
Now, on the narrow ridge, see half of earth,  
And more than half of heaven, each side of  
us;

And here, upon the peak, at last, we pierce  
The core where all sublimeness finds a center.  
Not all, you say?—Then tell me where on  
earth

A lesser summit taps a larger view;—  
See, south, the Berkshires, west of them, the  
Catskills,

Then, northward, up the far, wide Hudson  
valley,

The Adirondacks and the great Green range,  
With, here and there, a knoll that gives a  
hint

Of highlands past the north Connecticut,  
But, best of all, close by, the Housatonics,  
And, walled against the east, this Greylock  
group

Heaped near like models to reveal in full  
What wealth were in them all, if clearly seen.  
One day like this that lifts a life on high  
Where spirit seems to breathe its native air  
Is better than to dream a score of nights  
Where sleep is tinkering in its dark garage  
The tire that gains mere physical repair.



And why should one descend? Why cannot  
now

This whirling world whisk off the willing spirit  
And let it shoot through space, and go and go,  
And never come again? Ah, why should fate  
Leave thought entangled like an eagle here  
Whose wings are bound, and feet can only  
crawl

So slowly, and, when one so longs to fly,  
So painfully?—And yet there sounds a bell  
From out the valley. Why this call to work?  
Why this reluctant journey down the hill?—  
One scarcely dare look backward till, at last,  
The autumn's gold and crimson in the aisle  
That cleaves its glorious arch through Torrey's  
woods

Converts rebellious raving to remorse  
That, even for an hour, one could forget  
What beauty waits in low as well as high—  
In all this realm, which nature, like a mother  
That loves her child, has fashioned for his  
home.

Now back and down again to book and duty!  
But who are these we meet?—Our comrades?  
—Oh,  
Were they of us?—Alas, ye narrow souls,

Awake, and fly, like slaves that would be free!  
 Like those not made for soil but for the sky!  
 Bound down to petty tasks, more useless ye  
 Than ships loosed never from their anchorage,  
 Nor sailed to ports for which they have been  
 freighted.

Oh, think ye ends that souls were made to gain  
 Were ever reached by one who never breathed  
 A higher air, or saw a higher sight  
 Than those on which contracted brows are bent  
 In library or laboratory?—what?—  
 Does thought grow broader, whittled down to  
 point

At microscopic nuclei of dust,  
 As if the world were by, not with them, built?—  
 As if the game of true success were played  
 By matching parts whose wholes are curios?  
 Nay, nay! Life's greatest gain is life itself;  
 And life, though lived in matter, is not of it;  
 Not of the object that our aims pursue,  
 Not of the body that pursues it, not  
 Of all the world of which itself and us  
 Are parts. Nay, all things that the eye can  
 see

Are but vague shadows of reality  
 Cast on a frail environment of cloud,—  
 But illustrations of a general trend

Which only has enduring entity,  
And is, and was, and always must be, spirit.

There is one only mission fit for man,—  
To be a spirit ministering to spirit.  
What fits for this?—A breath of higher sky,  
A sight of higher scenes, at times, a strife  
To mount by means impossible as yet.  
What then?—Believe me that the spirit-air,  
Like all the air above the soil we tread,  
Takes to its own environment of light  
No growth to burst there into flower and fruit  
That does not get some start, and root itself  
Amid this lower world's deep, alien darkness,—  
No spirit uses wings in heaven that never  
Has learned of them, or longed for them, on  
earth.

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WEST MOUNTAIN.

NO hands of human art could be the first  
To draw thy contour's broken lines against  
The ended glory of the sunset sky.  
No thought of human mind could ever plan,  
Nor power uphold them. Nay, they must have  
sprung  
To shape like this when some primeval frost

Chilled, caught, and crystallized the storm-swept  
waves

Of chaos that, arrested in their rage,  
They fitly might portray the power beneath.

Stay there, great billows, all your boulder-drops  
Held harmless where they hang; and all the  
spray

That might have dashed above them merely  
leaves

Of bush and forest, held to equal pause  
Save where, perchance, their fluttering, now  
and then,

Reveals a feeling that they once were free;  
Stay there, suspended in the sky! But, sure  
As days roll up the sun, an hour must come  
When blazing blasts again shall shake these  
peaks,

Shall pile them higher, level them to plains,  
Or melt them back to primal nothingness.

Meantime their mission shall be what it is:  
To teach the world, not rest, but, restlessness,—  
The aspiration and the aim of art

That will not bide contented till the law  
Of thought shall supersede the law of things,  
And that which in the midnight of this world  
Is but a dream shall be fulfilled in days  
Where there is no more matter, only mind,

And beauty, born of free imagination,  
Shall wait but on the sovereignty of spirit.

How oft in youth I gazed upon these hights  
Uprising to refresh a faltering faith  
With wistful wonder and inspiring zest!  
For this how often have I climbed these fields  
From foot-hills to the Snow-hole; then, reclined  
Against the western slope, looked off to give  
A god-speed to the sun, and half believed  
The blue-tint sky-sheet held to light against  
The little town of learning that I loved  
Could bear away with photographic art  
That which should give enlightenment to all  
The western land through which it should be  
trailed.

How often, with a single friend, at times,—  
At times with many,—I have lingered there;  
And then, as if the very air breathed in  
From broader, grander spaces could inspire  
To thoughts of broader reach and grander  
import,  
It seemed that there was naught in earth or  
sky  
Or shop or study—did we deign descend  
To this more common world—that was not all

Discussed if not decided. Nor confined  
To bounds material were we. While the wind  
Would whistle through the trees and round the  
rocks,  
Our shouts would join them, now, perchance,  
intent  
To tempt the lonely echoes to applaud  
Our strife to make our ungrown voices fit  
To bear the burden of the larger thought  
For which the world beyond our youth seemed  
waiting;  
And now, perchance, though seldom recog-  
nized,  
Nor if, though subtly recognized, confessed,  
Intent to gain fore-echoes, as it were,  
Of that which should be college approbation  
When words that to the air were now rehearsed  
Should load the breath that carries freight to  
spirit,  
And, borne along the clogs of others' pulses,  
Should start that subtle rhythm in the heart  
That proves the presence and completes the  
work  
Of what impels to rhythmic rhetoric.

Then, warned by coming twilight we would  
turn,

And dare to lose the path, and plunge adown  
Where, lured by rock or rill, we snapt apart  
The net-work of the tangled underbrush,  
As if to seize wild prey enmeshed therein—  
Oh, happy days of youth! when empty sport  
Of mere imagination—fancied game—  
Could fill the hunter's pouch to overflowing!  
Ay, how much better than the days of age—  
Alas, I fear it, too, of modern youth  
For whom, so rich in matter, poor in mind,  
We manufacture implements of play  
That clip at fancies till they all fit facts,  
Plane joys to toys, and level games to gain,  
Till every pleasure palls that fails to pay  
In scales that rate life's worth by what it  
    weighs  
When all the spirit's buoyancy is lost.

How often with no friend except myself—  
And he, at times, no friend—my feet have trod  
These woods, the while my soul has longed to  
    rise  
Successfully as field and cliff and tree  
To heights where one could dwell above a world  
Whose common life appeared but all too com-  
    mon,  
Its aims too low for love to seek and honor,

And yet a world in which my own self, too,  
My body, spirit, all, bore part and share.

At times, these moods would pass like shadows  
trailed

Across the darkened meadows from far clouds  
That swiftly sail the sky; at times, they came  
To stay and root themselves like seeds that make  
The brush more thorny with each season's  
growth.

And, oh, one night there was—can I forget it?

Not while the sky above and earth beneath  
And all within my consciousness can last—

A night—and not the sole one—when, as if

My trembling human body were possessed

As by a demon of insane desire

To make its loneliness a fitting frame

For the deep loneliness of moods within,

I strolled, at midnight, through the shade-  
veiled elms,

Across the western rise, and down the hill.

What mattered how complained the creaking  
bridge,

Or bustling brook, disturbed by moon and me;

How marshalled into rows the ghost-like forms,

White mantled in the hill-side cemetery?—

On, on, I pressed until, through haunted aisles



Of phantom-fashioned trees and looming mounds  
That rose like mighty tombs of giants dead  
Whose spirits yet seemed round me,—on I  
pressed

Until I reached that great right angle where  
All farms and all things fertile lie below  
And only barren slopes of steril rock  
And trees that nature struggles to disown  
Await the climber who would still move on.  
And then I paused, and then I looked below,  
And asked what could be there for me, and then  
I looked above and asked what could be there.  
Mistakes of others and my own, as well,  
The land's financial stress, and that strange  
stress

Of human fellowship which sometimes makes  
A fellow-worker, from his very zeal  
To help another, elbow him aside,  
Had seemed to force me to a precipice  
As real as any that my feet could find;  
And I must fight, or fall; and if I fought  
Must fight myself and fight my every friend.  
Oh, do not think that heaven moves all alike!  
Some minds are sighted for a single aim,  
And right for others may be wrong for them!  
Oh, do not think the tempter, when he comes,  
Proclaims his presence through acknowledged ill!

His most seducing tones may leave the lips  
 Of friends, or those who best may pose as  
 friends;

His direst pitfall-paths mount up, nor hint  
 What crumbling crags their garden glories  
 wreath.

You deem that, at the crisis of his life,  
 It was a devil Jacob wrestled with?—  
 Nay, nay; Hosea's term for him was angel.

What but my own good angel could recall  
 The plans of others and the hopes of self  
 For early, easy, individual gain,  
 Position, influence, all that most men wish?  
 And what except this angel's foe was it  
 That made contend with these a force conjured  
 From inward consciousness of mind and body,  
 With all the doubts that shadowed thought in  
 one,

And nerves that stirred revulsion in the other,  
 As if to make my spirit fly as far  
 From fellow-spirits as those mountain highs  
 Were far from all that should be in one's home?

The darkest night brings dawn. You ask the  
 end? —

What if the purpose that my soul then formed

Remain still far too sacred to reveal?  
What if I failed to do as friends had hoped?  
What if I lived for years discredited?—  
God knows that I have tried to live my life;  
Nor from the trophies of the outside world  
Have often sought or longed for recompense.

Oh, there are views of life that so depend  
On inward entity at work beneath  
The whole that has been, or that can be,  
shown

In what men merely see or hear or clutch,  
That each and all seem hollow as mere husks.  
To-day a man is young, to-morrow, old;  
To-day in health, to-morrow in disease;  
To-day enthroned, to-morrow in his grave;  
And not alone to man these changes come.  
The earth, our home, that so enduring seems,  
The sun and stars that light it from above  
Belong but to a camp, set up to-day,  
And, on the morrow, fell 'd and flung aside.

What then remains for life?—If one have aimed  
For outward profit, nothing. If his thought  
Have always, through the outer, sought the  
inner,

Then, not alone, the stars that shine on high

May all prove beacons, guiding on and on  
To havens holding glories infinite,  
But each frail flower that blooms for but an  
hour

May store in memory an ideal of beauty,  
A sense of sweetness, that shall never leave  
him.

How vain to let affections all go forth  
To things material, hard and heavy foes,  
Whose mission is to fall at once and crush,  
Or, through long labor, wear our spirits out!  
How much more wise, behind the shape, to  
seek

The substance, and, in sympathy with it,  
Learn of the life that never was created  
But all things were created to reveal!  
Ah, he who learns of this, and comes to live  
In close communion with it, finds, at times,  
When Nature whom he loves has laid aside  
Her outer guise and clasps him to her heart,  
That there are mysteries, not vague but clear,  
Not formless but concrete, which, it must be,  
That those alone can know, or have a right  
To know, who always, like a faithful spouse,  
Have kept their spirits to the spirit true.

And when these mounts, like mighty sheets  
above

Some slumbering giant soon to wake and walk,  
Fall back to formlessness from whence they came,  
What wisdom shall be proved the choice of him  
Whose eyes, in mercy shielded from the blaze  
On which the soul alone can look and live,  
Did not mistake mere grossness in the form  
For the true greatness of the inward force;  
Whose mind too slightly taught, as yet, perhaps,  
To read, beneath the picture, all the text,  
Has yet surmised its meaning by that faith  
Which, though its guide be instinct, dares to  
think,

And, though it bow to greet the symbol, yet  
Lest not its magic cast a spell on sense!  
To him the world seems but a transient school;  
The universe, a university;  
The blue that homes the sunlight and the stars,  
A dome above a vast museum built  
With glens for alcoves, plains for galleries,  
And mounts for stairways, where he works  
and waits  
Till comes the day he takes his last degree,  
And then goes forth, and leaves these all be-  
hind,  
Yet, in a true sense, holds them his forever.



PARALLELS AND PARABLES





## THE LAST HOME-GATHERING.

THE age-worn dame her pale hand laid  
On the arm of her trembling age-worn  
maid.

“We both are white enough and lean  
For ghosts to go with and be seen.  
And I have dreamt they come to-day;  
Thanksgiving Day they come, I say!  
So get the table set,” she cried.  
“I will,” her wondering maid replied.

Off through the wild November sky,  
A storm, was it, that there drew nigh?  
Or was it a pall-car of the dead  
With crape-like curtains round it spread?  
And oh, was a death-doom ever due  
But lives that were sunny before it flew?  
Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, as the thing came on,  
To have seen the hurry and scurry, anon!  
Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, to have seen the way  
The breezes before it began to play!—  
It came like a boy who whistles first  
To warn of his form that shall on us burst,  
As if nature feared to jar the heart  
By joys too suddenly made to start.

It came like the peck on the blind by a bird  
That taps for help when a hawk is heard;  
It came like the shot of the pickets of rain  
When sunshine flies from a window-pane.  
But who of us ever can judge the way  
A storm will strike from its first felt spray?  
The walkers without soon found in the sleet  
A net that was tripping their floundering feet,  
A veil that was falling as light as lace  
But snapped as it hit each stinging face,  
Then shattered to scatter the street below  
With hail-shot followed by smoke of snow.  
The snow, it followed and lay like soot  
Swept down from realms its white could pollute.  
Or was it, instead, a pure rug spread  
For the feet that came in that car of the dead?  
The car moved on with threatening shade  
To the home of the age-worn dame and maid.

Meantime, the table, it had to be spread.  
“Get ready, get ready!” the white dame said.  
“Get ready what?—We mortals eat.  
But think you that ghosts deem eating a treat?—  
No hollow within have they to fill,  
No blood to flow, no nerve to thrill,  
But get you flowers, all fresh and sweet,  
A vase of flowers each guest to greet.

Of all things leaving the world at death,  
There is nothing of which we know but breath.  
And what but fragrance can they bear  
The whole of whose bodies are merely air?"

So out of the hot-house flowers were brought,  
And round the table wreaths were wrought,  
And a full vase rose at each one's place,  
Awaiting anon a ghostly face.

Beneath them all a pure white spread  
Made whiter the light by each candle shed,  
Each candle glittering, right or left,  
Like a fire-fly caught in a June-night theft.

For a while, the flowers that warmed the room  
Kept back the chill of the outer gloom.  
For a while, the symbols of life and health  
Had brought to that winter the summer's wealth.  
For a while, those watchers had waived the truth  
And brought their old age back to youth.

Then the door, it shook with a gust of the blast.  
The ghostly guests were there at last.  
"Come in, come in!" with eyes aflame,  
"Come in, come in!" cried the age-worn dame.

"Ah, Bessie, my child, it is you! It is you!—  
Still always the first, whatever you do?  
How oft, like the dear, sweet elf of a dream,

Just mantling in light at the dawn's first gleam,  
I have watched your form come shining through  
A halo of rays less bright than you.  
And when, with the others, you left for school  
Your feet went always first, as a rule.  
Your voice came first, when I heard their play,  
And your voice first when they knelt to pray.  
Of all our children you first were wed;  
And, alas, you too were the first with the dead.  
Oh, lead you still amid spirits above?  
If so, let me follow you there, my love;  
For the one that led to the best things here  
Must be some spirit that heaven holds dear.

“And Benny, my boy with the golden hair,  
And a faith so sure that each day would be fair!  
I think it was never a part of God's plan  
That you should grow from a boy to a man.  
So gentle, so yielding, your face all aglow  
To follow each friend, and never say ‘No,’  
The skies too cloudless dawned for you,  
Too sunny and warm—oh, nothing grew!  
Your golden fields that we fondly saw  
Were filled with a grainless crop of straw.  
Ah, child of my heart, to think that the grave  
Was the one thing left your honor to save!  
And yet, a boy that so could love,—

Has a heart like yours no hold above?  
 If one's own spirit tempt not astray,  
 But only the senses it fails to sway,  
 Where worth is judged by spirit, I dream  
 That some prove better than here they seem.—  
 Besides, besides, with Bessie you stand—  
 Oh God, I thank thee! She holds your hand.

“Here too comes Mary, you sweetest of all  
 That earth ever steeped in a brine of gall.  
 By your lover deceived, by many belied,  
 And long in suffering ere you died,—  
 Oh, what is the meaning of life like yours?  
 Does heaven mistake the traits that it cures? .  
 Or must the mood of a soul when trained  
 Be gauged by the discipline each has gained?  
 And is discipline never in reach of those  
 Whose natures have never been crushed by woes?  
 Do the cheeriest need the weariest strife,  
 Ere broken to bear what blesses our life?  
 Is the test of true metal the blow and the scrape  
 And the time that it takes to bend it in shape?  
 If so, perhaps, it is well that the best  
 Are those to whom earth brings the least of rest.

“And John, my eldest!—Are you too dead?—  
 No, no; I see—You are shaking your head;

And yet you have sent your spirit,—my stay,  
As of old, when your father was taken away.  
Of all our children, you promised the least,  
Yet your rising above them has not yet ceased.  
Your face was not fair, your mind not keen,  
But you had what was better,—a strength  
unseen.

When all of our household shook at the blast,  
Like a gnarled knit oak, you still stood fast.  
No wonder the boy that so could stand  
Is now a stay of our whole broad land!  
Ah yes, though dense the depths around,  
No high-aimed spirit to them is bound;  
No heaven-aimed spirit abides in a grave;  
But surely as air when plunged in a wave,  
Whatever may try to hinder or stop,  
There comes a time when it comes to the top.

“And Martha,—you always were planning for  
woe,

Yet whose whole life more joy could show?  
In man as in nature, the outward jar  
Less brings our trouble than what we are.  
The wind may but tickle the grass or the tree  
That lashes to fury the wave of the sea.  
Your mood was a sea; but oh, how bright  
It glimmered to image the whole world's light!

Your husband a model, your children all fair,  
Your days your own, so empty of care,—  
A life to which sorrow mostly came  
Like a stranger of whom one hears but the  
name,—

Ah, well, it was kind of your spirit to stray  
From your own bright home to see me to-day!

“And others too coming.—Oh how they crowd!—  
Their father of whom we were all so proud,  
My half, not only, the staff of my strife,  
Whose loss could but make me a cripple for life;  
And all the dear children of Martha and John,—  
Our children that make our houses anon  
Weird mirrors in which, with scarcely a blur,  
Our own lost lives we see as we were.  
Come in, come in, you are welcome, my dears!  
Come in, come in, and forget the years!  
Sit down, sit down! Thank God for the past  
And life to be ours long as memories last.”

She rose to greet them, but, fainting, fell—  
Ah no; it was no mere fainting spell!  
Her maid affrighted clutcht the dame's form,  
And wept, and called, and heard but the storm.  
A mighty blast the door flew back.  
The lights were out; the room was black.

Her maid affrighted heard no more.  
She knelt in darkness on the floor.

And when the neighbors came at dawn,  
The table stood, the guests were gone.  
And, side by side, at rest they laid  
The age-worn mistress and her maid.

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### MIDNIGHT IN A CITY PARK.

**S**LEEP on, O World, that I no more shall see,  
Sleep on, nor be disturbed by dreams of me.  
What cares this oak for one leaf downward tost,  
Or what all earth that one like me is lost?

The soul I love, the comrades of my strife,  
All, all forsake me. What remains for life?  
Bend over me, ye grim boughs of the park,  
And fold me in the coffin of the dark.

Hung high above this crape-like dusk of night,  
The star-lights flicker, and, with star-like light,  
The street-lamps ranged in order round me glow.  
What victor's pall was ever lighted so?

Here let me end my life. In death's long sleep  
No more shall weary eyes close but to weep,



Nor thoughts keep mining from the darkened  
brain

Fit fuel for the morrow's burning pain.

I might have turned and crushed their power for  
wrong;

Have made them mourn for what they met with  
song;

I might have spoken out and proved the lie,  
But meek, considerate, loyal, lo I die.

How many die, or all they live for lose  
Because of weapons honor cannot use!  
What hopes men bury that the ghosts which rise  
May lead the dance of others toward the skies!

If but the truth of love a soul should tell  
What hearts might break, what homes become  
a hell!

If touched by ardor of one's brightest aims,  
How black his earth might scorch beside the  
flames!

There, in that mansion, where the light burns  
late,

A wife will smile to greet her drunkard-mate;  
But, in her spirit, long for his fond eye  
Who waits for her until that mate shall die.

Where, like a stable's, that low roof is hung,  
Stern parents yoked and broke their loving  
    young;  
But love, if driven, is only driven away:  
Thank God that lips tell not what hate might  
    say.

Of yonder home a child was once the pride,  
But floods of vileness whelmed her in their tide.  
Diseased, disfigured, source of grief and shame,  
She dwells there still, nor hears one word of  
    blame.

And here where mourners watch a form so  
    white  
It scarcely veils the spirit's coming light,  
Their aching smiles travest with joy-like arts  
The throes of grief that rack their trembling  
    hearts.

Who lives not conscious of some inward thought  
Which out to outward life should not be  
    brought?

How many a soul must purchase all its joy  
With coin one test of ours could prove alloy!

Earth owes its faith to men who will not share  
Distrust with him who now has none to bear.

No sighs of theirs give vent to inward strife,  
Lest weak confession give it voice and life.

When comes a loss of fortune, honor, sway,  
When threatens death that hope alone can  
    stay,  
When senile states presume they still have  
    youth,—  
Oh, what could curse men worse than words of  
    truth?

The clerk, hard pressed, who holds the coffer's  
    key,  
The scribe in debt who writes that none can see,  
The maid in want who fingers gem and dress,—  
We trust them all for thoughts that all repress.

The forests flourish and the sweet flowers blow  
Because of soil that hides foul roots below;  
And all fair fruits of human life are grown  
Above dark moods and motives never shown.

Ah, were they shown, did man not rule himself,  
The world were whelmed in murder, vice, and  
    pelf;  
As vainly watchmen trod this dreamlike mist  
As might some weird, unwaked somnambulist.

To wisdom's eyes all paths in life reveal  
Each man a sentinel of all men's weal,  
And often all their safety he must win  
By first suppressing his first wish within.

Within himself when fierce the fight is waged,  
Oh, who can aid the purpose thus engaged!  
The soul, unheard, in darkness and alone,  
Can never share a contest all its own.

None from another's practice gains in skill,  
Or grows in power of feeling, thought, or will;  
None with another goes to God in dreams  
To seek the strength that his lost strength  
redeems.

What coward he, then, when the crisis nears  
Who cries for comrades, nor dare face his fears!  
No comrade's arm or mail can ever screen  
The coming conqueror in that strife unseen.

All hail, dark Night, and darker Loneliness!  
What whim was this that brought my wrong  
distress?  
In life or death, knights crowned at heaven's  
high throne,  
Pass up through paths where each must move  
alone.

Because, thus moving, many a brave soul  
bears

What none who else might be imperilled shares,  
I hear the watchman's call, the midnight bell,  
The city sleeps in peace, and all is well.

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## IDEALS THAT WERE.

I HAD longed for months to meet him;  
And then we sat, as of old,  
When our days of life were dawning,  
With skies all red and gold.  
But calmed was the thrill of his accent,  
And chilled the touch of his hand;  
And under his lifted eyelid .  
No dear soul seemed to stand.

We talked of business ventures,  
Of losses, and gains ahead,  
Of classmates,—a few successful,  
And some who had failed, or were dead.  
But it all appeared like a story  
One read in a book long ago,  
And recalls the reading to wonder  
How time could be wasted so.

We talked about women and marriage  
And children, and how they grow,  
That this one or that gives promise,  
And others bring doubt, you know.  
But our talk was the talk of strangers;  
In touch with each other, thought I,  
No more than a stone with a seraph  
Asail in a cloud on high.

And then, at last, we had parted;  
Nor had ventured one hint, forsooth,  
Of the light that gave heaven its glory,  
And earth its worth, in our youth.  
He had wrought for wealth, I had married;  
We had both earned board and bed;  
But for what had we made a living  
When all we had lived for was dead?

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### THE SAILOR'S CHOICE.

**H**E came to the deck at the call of the crew,  
And had brought his violin;  
So we hushed, as we all were wont to do,  
And waited for him to begin.

A sailor-lad was he, rough in his mien,  
But the look on his face, as he laid  
His ear to the strings, I would rather have seen  
Than have heard any tune ever played.

He stood like a picture painted in space,  
And paused ere the bow he drew;  
And then, that wonderful look on his face,  
How deathly pale it grew!

“I am waiting the music the same as you,”  
He said in a soft low voice;  
“But between what we would and we would not do  
We must make, at times, a choice.”

He lowered the bow with a sad sweet smile,  
“I think that the only pride  
That I ever feel,” he said, “is while  
I am playing with you at my side.

“Yet I never seem playing for you alone,  
For joining the voice of your call  
Comes a voice more stern than a mortal's tone,  
And it calls for my life, my all.

“It calls for my life. It draws my soul  
Far out of me, while I play,  
Till my body, deprived of my own control,  
Seems only a demon's prey.

“He tells me then, with a frame bereft  
Of power to will or to think,  
That for ills like mine no cure is left  
But the kind that comes from drink.

“You know my story,—too black to see,  
Too foul to paint or to tell,  
All proofs or threats are lost on me;  
I rave as if earth were hell.

“Last night my blood-stained hands were torn  
From the throat of my own best friend;  
And now, by the Lord, my soul hath sworn  
That a life like that shall end.

“There is only one thing that brings the foe  
That works this wrong within.  
It is only music that maddens me so,—  
The music of this violin.

“How once I scrimped with all I could earn  
Till it I, at last, possess;  
And how, when absent, my arms will yearn  
To feel it again at my breast!

“I tell it my pains, and its echoes come back  
So sweet I thank God they are there.  
I tell it my joys, and the thrills that they lack  
My soul breathes in with the air.



“And now, no matter what fate I fear,  
No matter what ship I am in,  
What comrade has left me, a friend is near,  
While by me is this violin.

“A friend! Oh, who but a fool would cling  
To a friend that can merely betray!  
And yet to think so dear a thing  
Could have led my spirit astray!”

He spoke, and looked at it, then, on his  
knee,  
He broke it like one who raves.  
The crew, to rescue it, sprang, but he  
Had hurled it off to the waves.

In the trough of the sea a moment it lay,  
And then came leaping back,  
Like a living foe, but was caught away  
And lost in the vessel's track.

“I cared for it more than I think you knew”  
He said, with a sob in his voice,  
“But between what we would and we would  
not do,  
We must make, at times, a choice.”

## AT THE PARTING OF THE WAYS.

DAY dawns, and just before my eye  
Two pathways fork the valley.  
One turns to where late dreamers lie,  
And one where soldiers rally.  
One slips by easy stages down;  
One climbs heights wild and steril.  
One ends in luxuries of the town;  
And one in pain and peril.

Which make I mine?—Yon sluggard dreams  
His music of sweet slumber  
To drum-beats of invading schemes  
Whose feet no man can number.  
Despoiling good, enriching ill,  
These work where none suspect them,  
And make mere slaves of thought and will  
That wake not to detect them.

Which make I mine?—On yonder height  
Full oft, all ease denying,  
One's only gain is conscious right,  
One's rest comes but from dying.  
But once a prince here died to give  
His own good spirit to us;  
And good for which we, too, would live  
May work less in than through us.

Oh, who would welcome not a strife  
Where worth wins all its glory?  
Nor waive the rôles of mortal life  
For an immortal story?  
The bugle calls the hill to storm.  
My body thrills!—I use it  
As due a spirit's uniform  
Used best by those who lose it.

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### THE RELIGION OF RESCUE.

**T**HE watch of the ship, "Lord Gough," called  
out

Through the hurricane's howl, "A wreck!"  
No shriek of the wind could have voiced that shout.  
It brought all hands to the deck.

"No use in letting their signal fly  
At half-mast"—muttered the mate;  
"For heaven alone, in a sea so high,  
Could save them now from their fate."

"That heaven be ours!" cried the captain brave;  
"Ay, rate me worse than a whelp,  
If, cowed by lashes of wind or of wave,  
I dare not row to their help!"

Yet who of his crew would volunteer?—

Who risk their lives in the yawl?—

He looked where he thought that a few might  
appear,

And found he could choose from all.

But wait!—On the mast of the floundering  
ship

The flag no more could be seen.

The ropes hung loose that his crew let slip;

For what could the lowered flag mean?

Oh, could it have been but a false alarm?—

They all of them held their breath.

Could there be no need of an outstretched arm,

Or of rowing that race with death?

The captain probed with his eye-glass then;

“Nay, water-logged do they lie;

And, flying a flag or no flag, men,

We rescue them now, or they die.”

He spoke, and his words, they rang like knell

On the drum of the outward ear;

But when on the inward soul they fell

Not a tremor they woke of fear.

Then soon, as a coffin falls to a grave,  
The yawl sank down, but alack!  
Like fingers white the crests of the wave  
Were clutching and flinging it back.

Then, whirled, as it were, in a drunkard's  
dance,  
It staggered, anon, and lunged,  
Then, tilted aside, like a hostile lance,  
At the hull of the wreck it plunged.

Three times, in vain, that helpless yawl  
Toward the deck of the wreck was tost.  
Three times the wrecked, as it back would  
fall,  
Looked down with the look of the lost.

Then shouts came snapping like whips the blast.  
The yawl to the boom had clung;  
And, one by one, from the wreck, at last,  
Black forms like bales were flung.

The last that leapt from the lone-left deck  
And called that the work was done,  
Gave "Cleopatra" as name of the wreck,  
And the captain as "Pendleton."

“If you be the captain,” greeted him then,  
 “In God’s name, tell us, man, why  
 You lowered your flag, as we hove to you, when  
 You knew that you all would die?”

“We lowered it because our yawls were lost.  
 We could never have rowed to you;  
 And we feared that for you to come would cost  
 Far more than to us was due.”

Then a low voice muttered, “When men would  
 find  
 Such a man as a man should be,—  
 A man that dares to die for his kind,  
 Then let them look to the sea.

“Whatever your churches or priests may claim,  
 When making their worldly rolls,  
 Those made by God for heaven will name  
 The men that have Christlike souls.”

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### AFTER THE LYNCHING.

“**W**AIT, wait! I beg you wait!” I heard.  
 “I know you, yes,”—and at the word,  
 My arm was clutched; and, standing still,  
 I waited there against my will.

Amid the darkness of the night,  
Two star-like eyes, a gown-cloud white,  
And, just above, like phantom rays,  
Gray, bony fingers met my gaze.

What skeleton had sought my side?—  
“In God’s name who are you?” I cried;  
And, wind-like came a ghostly hiss,  
“In God’s name, let me tell you this.

“Someone did something wrong,—a man.  
Some thought his color dark. He ran.  
We heard a tread, a hoot, a song.  
What of it?—We had done no wrong!

“We never dreamed of their attack,  
For we, we were not very black;  
And should we flee, someone might say  
That we were guilty—better stay!

“But they—O God, that hearts and minds  
Should rave like brutes that color blinds,  
Should feel no pity, weigh no proof,  
But vaunt the rule of horn and hoof!

“They dragged my father from his bed.  
They stripped and whipped, and burned him dead.  
My mother, she bewailed his death.  
They choked and wrung from her her breath.

“I ran, they followed. Oh, the slough,  
The brush, the briar I stumbled through!  
And each time that I rose, I said:  
‘My God, why was I not born dead?’

“‘Oh, why should He have made me so  
That half the world must hound me? Oh,  
Why curse the blackness of my skin,  
And not their souls all black within?

“‘Were all heaven’s whiter, brighter fires  
Burned out before it made my sires?  
Ay, was there nothing left but soot  
For men to trample underfoot?’”

“Too sad your lot,” I sighed, “my child.  
I wonder not your words are wild;  
But nay; not all men hound your race,  
Or deem it fills a useless place.

“No place in life but fills a need.  
Who tills the soil, he starts the seed;  
And on his kind of toil below  
Depends the kind of fruits that grow.”

“That grow!” she moaned; “they never will,  
On sprouts that men so tramp and kill.  
God grant they never live to see  
The wilderness their world will be.”



“God grant it, child,” I said, and thought  
How apt the message was she brought.  
Her people might seem injured worse,  
But mine had borne the deeper curse.

No pride in man can thrill the mind  
That treats, like soulless brutes, its kind;  
No heavenly father seems to cheer  
Those who see not his children here.

The only joy that love can know  
Dwells in our own hearts when aglow.  
The only hope that faith can feel  
Our spirits in themselves reveal.

“Hark, hark!” she cried, and through the dark,  
As if the wind had whirled a spark—  
Oh, would it kindle soon a fire?—  
I saw her eyes flash past the briar.

Then I, too, heard those coming feet  
And groans as of a wounded street.  
Then I, too, ran with trampings loud,  
And far from her I led that crowd.

I circled round it, came behind;  
And then I cried, “Oh, fools and blind!  
Who, who that once brute-force enthrone  
O'er others' rights can save their own?”

RIGHTING A WRONG.

YOU think you will go now?—that I must be  
tired?—

And go without John who brought us?—Why,  
why!—

Sit down here, and tell me what is it that  
fired,

And is trying to quench, too, that flash in  
your eye.

Not pleasant, was John?—Did not wish you to  
dance?—

How strange!—Just now he was here to tell  
Of your triumphs; and pride, too, there was in  
his glance

When he pointed you out as the ball-room's  
belle.

Oh!—only one man of whom you have heard  
That he wanted you not to dance with!—I  
see;

And that man a stranger; but you, you pre-  
ferred

The stranger to John—which he thought  
should not be?

You say that women know best what men  
are?—

And that men that are jealous are always  
unjust?—

What of that?—It applies not to John, so far;  
For he has a head and a heart we all trust.

Wait here, dear. You thought I was lonely;  
but no:

Old age has pleasures that youth cannot own.  
There are persons and scenes crowd the memory  
so,

'T is a wonder we ever feel wholly alone.

You young people deem only you dance here.

Why, dear, while you were there on the  
floor,

My soul, as it has not for many a year,

Has been dancing one dance that I dance ever-  
more.

And dimly, yet clearly, I saw, too, to-night

The man whom then I was dancing beside,

My heart all aglow, and my hope so bright,

For I, I had promised to be his bride.

But into that ball-room, a stranger came.

He looked like a prince as he followed my  
train.

His whisper was warm, and his eyes were aflame;  
And I was a moth, and was young, and vain.

Then he that I loved drew me off, and declared  
That this man was a knave, as he knew;  
And I must not—but I was no child to be scared  
By one who was jealous.—I felt like you.

It seemed the crown-time of my life, that night.  
I was queen of all hearts, the beauty, the belle.  
I sat on a throne in a halo of light;  
But my lover—he lingered outside of my spell.

He wrote then a letter. “What weakness!” I  
cried;  
“To be punished, his heart should be placed  
on a rack.”

So all of his letters together I tied,  
And returned them, and waited. They never  
came back.

He never came near me after that, dear;  
Merely dropped a brief line to say I was free.  
He thought I distrusted him,—that was clear;  
And love without faith, he felt could not be.

The best hearts often, I think, are like his.

They open their holy of holies within;  
And that which profanes all, whatever it is,  
They cast out forever, as heaven would sin.

And I?—you have heard—it is not untrue,—  
That some love but once. Ever since that  
ball

I have loved no other my whole life through;  
And am only your old-maid-aunt, that is all.

What?—tears?—Not for me?—You awoke me,  
in truth,  
From the sweetest of dreams.—Can you  
guess what one?—

I am told that you look as I looked in my youth;  
And this John is his image—yes, dear, his own  
son.

He is coming again!—He is coming, you see!—  
And who was that stranger that talked to her  
so?—

She thinks you disliked him as much as did  
she.

Keep him off! Girls feel it so rude to say  
“No.”

Au revoir!—and now I go back to my dream.  
 Some souls have missions because misled.  
 I must save her from dreaming how life might  
     seem  
 Were all that one cares for in life not dead.

---

### SHE WONDERS WHY.

**H**IS form was manly, his face was fair,  
 His character true and pure.  
 Would she be his bride?—He lingered there;  
 But “Nay,” she said; he was “poor.”  
 She sits alone, and wonders why  
 He should think with nothing a bride to buy.

He flung to the war the form she had spurned;  
 He hurled it far in the strife.  
 His brave assault had a victory earned;  
 But he, he had lost his life.  
 She sits alone and wonders why  
 A man who loved her should need to die.

They brought him home, and buried him deep,  
 In a soldier’s raiment clad;  
 And she, she came to see and weep;  
 For his life had seemed so sad.

She sits alone, and wonders why  
No lover comes as the years go by.

---

## THE WALL-FLOWER.

OUTSIDE the whirlpool of the ball,  
A stranded flower against the wall,  
She blusht to feel she stood too tall  
For aught about to hide.

Why should a soul to earth be brought  
And framed within a form, she thought,  
That shows no beauty to be sought?  
And deeply sad, she sighed.

A strong man of the world was he,  
And round about him rusht that sea  
And swept him off; but not to be  
The end of all his care.

So held in hands and tript in trains,  
He did not lightly wear the reins,  
But seemed a spirit dragged in chains;  
Then saw her standing there.

He stood beside her soon, and talked,  
And out the garden door they stalked,  
And where the boughs were thick they walked,  
Ah, how the hours had flown!

She never heard a man before  
With such a stock of soulful lore,  
Nor thought to meet his equal more;  
Nor felt again alone!

---

### HOMELESS.

“**P**ERHAPS I failed in thrift, of old.  
It may serve me right to be hungry and cold;  
But why should my babe, so frail, so fair,  
Be left with nothing to eat or wear?  
Come, come, my child, out there on the street  
Are beautiful homes with supper and heat;  
And when they see to whom they can give,  
Oh, then they will help thee and let thee live.”

She opened the door. She walked the street.  
She held to the passer her babe so sweet.  
Up many a stately porch she crept;  
But closed to her call their doors were kept;  
And some there were even that named police,  
Till she only dared to hold her peace.  
Oh, beautiful homes, with so much to give,  
Do none of you care that her child should live?

She sank on a seat. They sat in a park.  
One locked its gates. The night grew dark.



The air was chilly. The snow fell deep.  
There was no one to bid her babe not weep.  
There was no one to cover its form from the  
blast;  
And yet, how quiet it slept at last!  
Oh, beautiful homes, keep what ye might give.  
None need care now that her child should live.

---

## THE BLIZZARD.

WITH a scowling sky blue-black from a blow,  
And the whur of a giant in skirts of snow,  
The blizzard came howling ahead.  
“O God,” she cried, “what a fearful sight!  
And my children are coming from school, to-  
night!  
I must fetch them home,” she said.

She tramped in the snow, and battled the blast,  
And just had fainted, but saw, at last,  
The dear little pair that she sought.  
“Thank God,” she cried, and, with freezing tears  
That fell like pearls, while she freed her fears,  
To her breast the two she brought.

The blizzard had gone, and the sun shone bright;  
But under a snow-shroud—oh so white!—

The children and mother lay.  
 Thank God, she was there with a kiss and a word;  
 The deepest prayer of her heart had been  
     heard;  
 She had taken them home to stay.

---

IN THE LIFE BEYOND.

SO pale is the little cheek  
     And the still lips will not speak.  
 Oh, where is the life I seek,  
     My child, my child?  
 Oh, why has the spirit flown  
 Without me to lead it, alone,  
 Out into the dark unknown,  
     So wide, so wild?

Who now when dreams grow deep  
 Will watch at the gates of sleep,  
 Or wipe these eyes when they weep  
     At scenes unkind?  
 Who now when wish and thought  
 So yearn to be helpt or taught  
 Will bring the boon they had sought,  
     But could not find?

Oh, surely love must care  
For child-life everywhere!  
Kind hands, they must be there,  
    So soft, so fond!  
They must keep my child for me,  
Forever a child to be,  
Where forever a home I see  
    In the life beyond.



SUGGESTIONS FROM CHURCH,  
STATE, AND SOCIETY.



## A HYMN FOR ALL RELIGIONS.

### PARTIAL CHORUSES.

OH Life that lives beyond desire  
In peace that makes the future blest,  
Through each new death, oh lift us higher,  
Till all shall with the Bhudda rest.

Oh Mind that knows what all would know,  
Although Thyself be never known,  
Hear us whose thought would not forego  
What wise Confucius made his own.

Oh King whose glories mortal saw  
When Moses near'd Mount Sinai's fires,  
Hear us who still regard thy law,  
And serve the Lord who saved our sires.

Oh Leader who one prophet hath  
To guide the faithful soul to thee,  
Hear us who ne'er forsake the path  
Wherein Mohammed's form we see.

Our Father from thy home above  
 Thy call was heard and it sufficed,  
 Hear us for him who proved thy love,  
 Hear us whose faith hath found the Christ.

FULL CHORUS.

Oh Thou that over all must reign,  
 We should Thy glorious throne profane,  
 Did we not walk in his dear shade  
 Whom Thou our light of life hast made.  
 Oh save us through his truth and grace,  
 Nor let the lightning of Thy face  
 Strike those who follow in his train.

RESPONSE.

Not every man that names the name  
 That is the Lord's can enter here;  
 But only those whose inward aim  
 Would do his will howe'er made clear.  
 For naught can reach the Spirit's throne  
 Save what in spirit spirits own.



THE AMERICAN PIONEER.<sup>1</sup>

OF all the world's grand heroes, none has won  
The right to be more honored or more dear  
Than he who, traveling toward the setting  
sun,  
Became our country's western pioneer.  
For strife that made our free land what it is  
Our debt is not to Pilgrim sires alone.  
This later sire, too, that each heir of his  
Might weal inherit, oft gave up his own.

Think not for weakness that could not have  
wrung  
His due from rivals in his childhood's home,  
He turned from scenes that he was reared among,  
And chose in lone untrodden wilds to roam.  
The fledglings first to flap a restless wing  
Have calmed each mate that would their whir  
contest,  
Long ere, at last, they take the fateful spring  
That bears them off forever from the nest.

<sup>1</sup>Read at the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding, in 1803, of Potsdam, N. Y., and of St. Lawrence Academy, by Benjamin Raymond, Civil Engineer and County Judge.

And not for fame wrought he who moved away  
 Where few could note his deeds or shout his  
 name.

No throngs he drew to tempt him to display;  
 No couriers flew his triumphs to proclaim.  
 For years no sound his pride of self increased.  
 He heard but echoes of his axe and gun,  
 The night-howl of the wolves, or, when they  
 ceased,  
 The singing of the birds to greet the sun.

And not for coin he left the town's close ranks  
 That, bartering, beat him in tight-fisted  
 strife,—  
 Their plants all factories, their granaries banks,  
 Their atmosphere but that of man-made life.  
 His mood preferred God's primitive exchange  
 Where well tilled grain in grain gives back  
 returns;  
 Nor did he ever deem it wrong or strange  
 That rest enjoys no more than effort earns.

Nor fled he like some prodigal, to please  
 Himself, and thus a father's purpose foil.  
 No seeker for a life of selfish ease  
 Would so enroll with volunteers of toil.

He fought the wild beasts backward through the  
wood;

To pave the swamp, he pried the ledges down;  
Grubbed roots to clear the field for others'  
food;

Felled trees with which his followers built the  
town.

He went as if some call within the soul

Had come to urge him toward the untamed  
wild,—

A call that all his life-work should control,

A father's call, of whom he seemed a child.

He must have felt that earth's unconscious  
growth

Could flower alone in conscious deeds of man,  
And where man wrought with nature, there that  
both

Were working to fulfill a God-formed plan.

His body served the soil, but from the skies

He breathed the spirit in with which he  
wrought.

In them he saw fair homes and cities rise;

No facts could bury faith that lived in  
thought.

His life was hard, yet seemed a rare romance,  
 The sense in thrall, the soul at liberty;  
 And, winged beyond his age in its advance,  
 What he saw then, we now term prophecy.

Oh, would his children in this age were true  
 To that which they inherit from the past!  
 Would they could look beyond each present view  
 Up through the clouds and forward through  
 the blast!

Still waits for us that city which our sires  
 Saw looming in the realm of their ideal;  
 Still needs the world the spirit that aspires  
 To lead where earth is new and heaven seems  
 real.

---

### GOD BLESS AMERICA.

**G**OD bless America, and still  
 Our nation's guardian be,  
 As when, of old, to work thy will,  
 Our fathers made it free.  
 We thank thee for our fertile fields,  
 For mines our high hills dome;  
 But more for kindly rule that yields  
 Its due to every home.

Oh, never, where brute-force would fight  
The ways humane it hates,  
Could aught resist it like the might  
United to uphold the right  
In these United States.

God bless "the Stars and Stripes" above  
The school, the shop, the farm.  
To nothing worthy of man's love  
Its flying could do harm.  
Let others boast a flag that waves  
In triumph where men kill,  
We prize our own as one that saves  
From wrong that war would still,—  
A symbol of just laws that lead  
To life that peace creates,  
While men to men fair play concede,  
And States lack neither help nor heed  
That are United States.

God bless the world by blessing here  
The land of equal rights.  
The man who deems each man his peer  
No other's nation slights.  
Ay, where no earthly lords enthral  
Through faith in sword or throne,

In God we trust by trusting all  
    In whom His traits are shown.  
The largest hope since time began,  
    For which the whole world waits,  
Is that for which our statesmen plan,—  
The coming Parliament of Man,  
    The world's United States.

---

## TO THE WIFE OF A PUBLIC MAN

AS REPORTED BY A MIND-READER.

**Y**OU point toward us your finger.  
    We press it, if we choose;  
But, oh, we must not linger  
    Your patience to abuse!

We dare your face to look at;  
    But us you scarcely see.  
Big fish for you to hook at  
    Are not such fry as we.

Yet not to pay this visit  
    Had seemed for us a slight.  
It is not easy—is it?—  
    For you to be polite.

Of course, we know your reason ;  
It is so hard to drop,  
Or in or out the season,  
The manners of the shop,—

The business-ways that culture  
New meanness, day by day,—  
The swaggering of the vulture,  
The squirming of its prey.

Did you not show your heart set  
On those with gold to spend,  
You might then to your smart-set  
Appear some poor man's friend.

You think, to be successful,  
With snobs you ought to score ;  
Yet those with purses less full,  
They number many more.

They vote the world's opinion ;  
And when they see your mien,  
Not one would seem a minion  
That you may seem a queen.

Not one thing can you boast of  
That they would not dispute,  
Save when you make the most of  
What makes you most a brute.

Thank God, ours is a nation  
That his own test controls ;  
Nor bows before high station  
When held by low-lived souls.

We deem it merely human  
To not put under ban  
The deference due each woman,  
The honor due each man.

But you—from us you differ,  
And does your husband, too?—  
Or only for your sniffer  
Must we bid him adieu?

When us he seeks applause of  
And bids you join his trick,  
Why spoil the show because of  
Your mule-like itch to kick?



We knew your record shady,  
But if that thriftless cot  
Had turned you out a lady,  
All this had been forgot.

But now—how deeds expose us!—  
Your vulgar strain is real.  
Your overbearing shows us  
Your underbred ideal.

---

## HER HAUGHTINESS.

SHE stands erect and overlooks  
Those she would make look up to her;  
And, scepter-like, her straight hand brooks  
A touch, but not a hand-shake, sir.  
She walks, and clearance for her feet  
Expects from all men not profane.  
No brute so trod a field of wheat  
To bend and break, not thresh, the grain.

The poor and weak—oh, not to them  
She turns a heedful eye or ear!  
Could rags of theirs offset a gem?  
Or feeble voices lend a cheer?

Yet if a great man you—aha!—

Or wealth or honor can confer,  
No Moses tapping Meribah  
Could slake conceit's hot thirst like her.

And would you question how was won  
The high regard she claims from earth?  
Think not she feels that service done  
For manhood measures manhood's worth.  
Nay, nay; no meanest epithet  
Her antecedents could traduce  
Which one, save those who can forget,  
Or wealth can bribe, would deem abuse.

I say this not because no white  
Became her mother but the shroud's;—  
A flower may blossom, sweet and bright,  
Though grown in mire where hang but clouds;  
And not because, to dig for pelf,  
Her father soiled both soul and hand;—  
Each spirit by and in itself,  
Insures what heaven should bless or brand.

I blame her not because her veins  
Contain her foul forefathers' blood,  
But that her own work now maintains  
The present spring that taints its flood.

I blame the beauty in her face,  
The beacon-flashes in her eye,  
The faultless form, the luring grace,  
All made by her a living lie.

A living lie!—In realms of right  
With no such charms is wrong indued;  
All beauty is the halo bright,  
The coming glow of God and good.  
What foe to worth that rules above  
Sent forth, to serve but greed and pelf,  
This outward messenger of love  
With inward mission but for self?

In her the smile that brings life cheer,  
The tone that faith can understand,  
The phrase that makes the doubtful clear,  
The clasp that plights the helping hand,  
The sympathies that zest infuse,  
The comradeships that souls ally,  
Her heart has never thrilled to use,  
Her head has never planned to try.

Alas, to know what life can be,  
And then to know what her life is!—  
That, such a thing to pity, she  
Should dream of her priorities!

I doubt if one could find a soul  
 Whose love for her would be avowed;  
 And yet, when playing such a rôle,  
 Good God!—to think she can be proud!

---

### THE SOCIETY LEADER.

NO princess merely born to reign  
 Could boast a more desired domain,—  
 More loyal followers in her train,  
 For she rules head and heart.  
 To vie with her, the rolling drum,  
 The bugle call would both be dumb.  
 They could not bid such homage come  
 Or such repute impart.

And not for naught do men, I ween,  
 Like bees that swarm, make one their queen,  
 And, actor-like in every scene,  
 Yield her the leading rôle.  
 For if that rôle make true and real  
 The hope that heeds a high ideal,  
 What heaven-sent goddess could reveal  
 More good to bless the soul?

But if her social touch infest  
The town with some contagious pest,  
Whose nights of fever know no rest,  
Nor days, in all the seven,  
Her hand may guide where souls but weep,  
Not less for loss of dreams in sleep  
Than loss of waking dreams that keep  
The spirit near to heaven.

And if she lure to seek success  
Through debt-bought houses, motors, dress,  
And all that drugs to thoughtlessness  
The thought that minds would shirk,  
Be dupes beguiled to fling away  
The hard-earned token-coin of pay,  
Dishonoring, in the craze of play,  
The law that blesses work,—

If thus to ill her lead incline,  
Deluded throngs that push and pine  
To get inside her circle's line  
Might better seek a herse.  
No soul that once becomes the prey  
Of her whose form exerts the sway  
Of beauty but to lead astray  
Could find a devil worse.



LOVE AND LIFE.





## LOVE AND LIFE.

### I

LIFE is a mystery, mystery bound.  
Above or about us no rest is found.  
Our past is a dream of the soul's dim home;  
Our future a scheme for the mist and the foam.  
The winds drive us on; we shudder but steer;  
We tack for safety, we drift in fear;  
We cry for help and a helper, but none  
Will answer our cry; we struggle alone.  
If our landing, indeed, were near some light  
To signal the harbor were now in sight.  
Be alert, my soul, nor ever a ray  
Let gleam unused when the gloom gives way.  
No doubt or danger can ever dispense  
With a sigh or a sign for spirit or sense.

### II

Ah, whither do lines of the long course tend,  
And when will the task of tracking them end?

No voice can tell us. No other can show  
What no one except ourselves can know.

On the way to the grave,  
Though, over the wave,  
Loom many a shore past many a shoal,  
But one port waits for any one soul.

*By himself alone*

*He must make his quest  
For a home to own  
In the land of the best.*

### III.

What order but this,  
At the world's first dawn,  
Made clear the abyss  
Through the dark withdrawn?  
Off flew on their missions  
The systems and stars,  
To waiting fruitions  
That time still bars;  
And high rose the mountains;  
And broad reacht the plains;  
And up burst the fountains;  
And down fell the rains;

And, water'd between,  
Came on earth that was green;

And, fragrant  
And beautiful,  
Herbage and flower;

And, vagrant  
Or dutiful,  
Manhood, a power,  
Whose glory  
And story

Is always this,—  
That the spirit of life  
Is a spirit of strife;

And, whatever the thing we may gain or miss,  
The end of it all is to lie like a knight  
Whose rest is the weariness won in a fight.  
The world whirls us on, and, in reason or rage,  
We bustle and jostle from childhood to age.

#### IV.

Lo, feebly rises  
A voice that wails,  
As life surprises  
And lifts the veils

From the eyes of a babe that little prizes

An unsought birth  
In a lone chill earth

Where it weeps and wonders what life is worth!  
The eyes draw back from the points of the light  
That glance from a world that is all in a glitter.  
The cheeks to mysteries huge look fright.

The swaddling chafes and the cups are bitter.  
The small hands clutch for motes of the air,  
For plaits of the dress, for folds of the bed;  
But the marvels move and mingle and tear,  
Redoubled by every shred.

Soon, limbs that balance the tottering brain  
Fall down in the pathway damp with the rain;  
Or fly with shrieks from the boisterous joys,—  
The barking and bounding of dogs and boys,  
And wheels incessantly grinding out noise.  
And if, indeed, the flowers be sweet,  
The garden is close to the long, wide street,  
And all the big houses, and who can they be  
The smileless people so stern to see?

## V.

The lone little being, bewildered by needs  
And thoughts it can speak not, or nobody heeds,  
Ah, where can it find any respite or rest,  
Till cradled, anon, on its mother's breast,

Its faith a feeling by none withstood;  
 Its hope that of saints in God and in good;  
 And its love, ah would none ever could  
     roam  
 From the LOVE OF THE CHILD in the joy of the  
     home

*Where none seem alone,  
 But a part of life's whole,  
 Whom love, when shown,  
 Hath joined in soul.*

## VI.

Behold, at the heart's least token,  
     The babe and the mother,  
 Whose lives apart had broken,  
     At one with each other!  
 But, ah, sweet babe, if thy mother incline  
     To welcome thy fears  
 With words that direct toward the work of the  
     years  
 More voiced for her nature than thine,  
 The first of earth's parents could no more  
     undo  
 Than the last of their kind, through self-seeking  
     too,  
 Who tamper with nature's design.

## VII.

What a spirit earth needs in the mother!  
Who else can inspire  
To a life to be loved by another  
The future's desire?  
The tender plant that springs to the air  
From the small frail urn of youth  
Is trained, if at all, by a woman's care  
For the flowering and fruitage of truth.  
Each home is an Eden that owns an Eve  
Whose deeds make all life joy or grieve.

What a work to be done by the mother,  
Ere, out from the home,  
To be shadowed and shaped by another,  
The child must roam;  
Ere battered and tattered by earth,  
No matter how loath,  
With a push that is his by birth,  
An impulse of growth,  
He is warring to win or to lose in the strife  
Where the stoutest of all must battle for life,

## VIII.

God shield his frame  
And straighten his aim;

For no help else, or early or late,  
 Can ward his form in the war with fate;  
 No help ward those who must weep for one  
 Who fell as the battle had just begun;  
 Whom life had afforded not one chance  
 To tender his aid in the world's advance.  
 Oh, if there be laws that faith can trust,  
 High laws that righten all things unjust,  
 What spheres for dreaming and doing must lie  
 In airs not domed by a mortal sky!  
 What fulness of living must life contain  
 Where losing one's life on earth seems gain!  
 Well might it seem so, if a soul no more  
 Should need to struggle, bruised and sore,—

*By himself alone  
 To make his quest  
 For a home to own  
 In the land of the best.*

## IX.

What joy does the bell  
 Of the school foretell  
 To the child who first, with book and slate,  
 And bounding step for his fancied fate,

Goes out from home, whose dear eyes yearn,  
Out into the world with a world to learn!

Alas for the feet that trip through the street!

Those throngs before

The school-house door

Are a hostile host to meet.

Those unknown quizzical girls and boys

Have made the eye

So keen, grow shy;

And a blush takes the place

Of the flush on the face

That shrinks from the hoped-for joys;

And sad to the stranger and drear and dim

Seems a world of pleasure that knows not  
him.

X.

What zest does the sport

Of the school import

Into life, as its ways unfold!

As the child in his turn grows bold;

And, with tests that have made his own soul  
stout,

Assails his fellows their fears to rout!

Alas for his elders' rebukes and sighs!



His mind is away  
 At play all day,  
 Nor cares for a school-room prize.  
 But if a spirit of love and of zeal  
 In others inspire him  
 Through toils that tire him,  
 What nobler throne  
 Could their spirits own,  
 What realm more royal in weal!  
 The autocrat's pride in his haughtier train  
 The miser's clutch for the glut of his gain,  
 Are as shade to the light,  
 Are as hell to a heaven, compared to their lot  
 Though humble and poor, whose lives incite  
 And train men's thinking that else were not.

## XI.

What a test of all life  
 Is the school-time strife!  
 Oh, who is he that shall win life's prize?—  
 He may be the least in his comrades' eyes.  
 For the compass that saves when mysteries  
 throng  
 Would better be sensitive first than strong.  
 The triumph of sinew and speed are brief;

For the harbor sought is dim and far,  
Past many a bar,  
And many a well hid reef.  
From many a moon-lit bay men bless  
Bright beacons beck  
Toward death and wreck,  
And many are winds that rise and roar  
To drive ashore.  
Ah me, the pilots of sure success  
Sail not at random, nor steer by guess.  
The voyage of life is a voyage for naught,  
If souls keep not to one thing sought,  
And never forget to give it their thought.

## XII.

The new has claims  
That the old has not.  
How much for games  
Is the home forgot!  
There are sports for green and river and hall,  
Kite and see-saw, fishing and ball,  
Clubs and parties, music and fun,  
Books to study and slight and shun,  
And fresh little thoughts in tones that tinkle,  
As dance the dimples that round them wrinkle,

More dear to refresh the soul with delight  
Than all of their elders' reason and right.  
For the healthful, heartfelt blush  
Of youth's fair spring-time's flower and fruit,  
Is never the autumn's hectic flush  
Of a life that fades and dies at the root.

## XIII.

Oh, where are the minds that pair  
With those that their own have outgrown,  
Nor long for another to share  
In moods at one with their own?  
How oft a prize may be won,  
How oft the applause of the throng,  
Yet to him that hears the "Well done,"  
The whole world yet seems wrong!  
He knows not why till a face  
With eyes that the soul shines through,  
Forsakes all others, to trace  
And find his own that withdrew;  
Till feelings as timid as his,  
Yet yearning for love, and alone,  
Unveil all the mysteries  
That hide their soul from his own.  
Oh, where is the peace on earth,  
In which more peace can blend,

Or pride in a loftier sense of worth,  
 Than follows the LOVE OF THE FRIEND?  
 Not all the doubts of the creeds  
 Can shake their faith who find  
 No selfishness back of the deeds  
 Of one pure sensitive mind.

*They are not alone,  
 But a part of life's whole,  
 Whom love, when shown,  
 Hath joined in soul.*

## XIV.

The friends that in closeted hours confess  
 The faith so dear  
 That both possess,  
 When others are near,  
 Abide contented not to reveal,  
 But merely to feel,  
 In walking  
 Or talking,  
 That some one is nigh  
 With a kindling eye;  
 And some one exults at their well earned pride.  
 To tattle of love were suicide.  
 No trumpet or drumming  
 Proclaims the coming

Of God on high to a spirit on earth.  
Then wherefore of love, if it have any worth?

## XV.

Dear vows, they are meant when made,  
Of friendship forever to last;  
But there, where the morn's bright beams were  
cast  
On a world so fair  
That all seemed like a dream of an Eden rare,  
Can the rays of the sun as it sets bring shade.  
But even the night  
Holds the moon's mild light;  
And whenever the sun return again,  
The fields that flame  
To its touch are the same;  
And, whenever the loved return, ah, then,  
For the soul there are joys,  
Tho' the girls and the boys  
Gaze out through the guises of women and men.

## XVI.

How soon the tints of morn fade away,  
And the sun is clouded, and skies are gray!  
Whatever the promise of rest or of toil,  
There never can be an earthly soil,

But flood and earthquake tear ;  
There never can be an earthly air,  
But wind and lightning rend.  
Vain then to think of an earthly friend  
Whose love and help can last !  
For all, whenever their day be past,  
The air they breathe, the soil they tread  
Will close in a coffin and leave them dead ;  
    And he that sought  
    For the strength they brought

*By himself alone  
    Must make his quest  
For a home to own  
    In the land of the best.*

## XVII.

There comes a time that none can escape,  
When each for himself a choice must make,  
Must turn to a path that is right or is wrong,  
And the path that he takes is a path life-long.  
What though some weak, mild memory know  
Not the hour nor the day that tested it so ?  
What though some shrink from the woes before  
With a shock that is never forgotten more ?—  
All noted their paths, and thought of the change  
Till nothing that came seem'd wholly strange ;

And though there is little for curses or hymns  
     In a thought of the earth or the skies,  
 Our wishes and ways are heirs of our whims,  
     And our footsteps follow our eyes.  
 Great crimes can never their souls allure,  
 Who have kept their moods and memories pure,  
     And so I know,  
 That the souls that hold to the right with ease,  
     Have fought their vices before they fall.  
     The time to stop sinning  
     Is ere its beginning.  
     Allow'd to grow,  
 The germs of guilt, like those of disease,  
     Prove deadly because they seem so small.

## XVIII.

How much we need this lesson, alas!  
 We sally forth: we mix with the mass:  
 We meet a world, too willing to show  
 How little about the world we know.  
     When only a boy,  
 To know a little is all our joy.  
     But alas, for a man,  
 His trials begin as Adam's began!  
 Like him, we all would be gods, and boast  
 Of knowledge and power to the uttermost.

When comes the day  
Revealing how small  
Is the sphere that life has allotted us all,  
We choose a way  
To rise or to fall;  
We accept from above,  
And use with love  
Our partial dower,  
And learn to master and make it a power;  
Or we boast of what  
Our souls have not,  
And turn from the frank, fair ways of truth  
To the ways that avoid it, and think, forsooth,  
That nothing can shatter a sham defense  
That hides our hollowness in pretense.

## XIX.

Alas, if the world affect one so,  
How suddenly old the young may grow!  
No longer they seek for the right, too vain  
To ask it, and make their ignorance plain.  
No longer they struggle for love that lends  
No more than frailty borrows from friends.  
No longer they live in the light, but trust  
Disguises that doom them to garbs of dust.



Oh earth, tho' royal the robes you bring,  
 They stifle the spirit to which they cling!  
 For none are free, when the truth shines bright,  
 Who would fly or hide themselves from sight.

They are free alone,  
 Who dare to hold their souls to the light,  
 And have their innermost motives known.

## XX.

What joys are as great, since the world began,  
 As the joy of the soul whose depths impart  
 The LOVE OF THE LOVER that opens the  
 heart

Of the man to the maid and the maid to the man!  
 The cup of life that was hollow and dry  
 Is thrilling and filling  
 And sparkling and spilling.  
 Live high! is the cry;

Live high! as the glasses clash and jingle,  
 And currents of life in them mingle and tingle.  
 The spirit within has flooded each brim,  
 And eyes grow dizzy and dazed and dim.  
 Both drink till they reel, and around and around  
 The world goes whirling. Ah, never so bright  
 Was ever the world!—Their spirits have found

The realm of the stars, and at last caught sight  
 Past the sparks that are flying, the source of all  
 light.

*They are not alone,  
 But a part of life's whole  
 Whom love, when shown,  
 Hath joined in soul.*

## XXI.

There dawns, transfiguring earth and skies,  
 A day in the light of which faith may be sure  
 What power makes all life be and endure.  
 It comes, when, filling with hope, we rise  
 Redeemed in soul by the Spirit of Truth;  
 And it comes with assent that glorifies  
 A soul that has won the love of its youth.  
 Ah, never the trills  
 Of the birds were half so thrillingly sweet;  
 Nor ever the rills  
 Rolled on so clear at the feet.  
 The leaves are all flowers,  
 And crystal all showers.  
 Through the clouds the green hills loom, as grand  
 As the nearing shores of a spirit-land;

And the lights of the stars gleam down thro' a  
soul

That heaves like a wave of the infinite whole.  
We float and fuse in the fragrant air;  
We fade from ourselves; we die to all care.  
Ay, she that is ours in that moment of bliss  
Brings all immortality, worth not this.  
Nay, nay, we have gain'd the life above.  
Who dares to deny it to our first love?  
We have, we have eternity!—Yet  
The brightest of suns may rise to set.  
How blest are they who never find out  
How earthly love, like its home, shifts about!

## XXII.

Romance is a dream  
That the wise esteem,  
For none whom it never possest  
Were ever the bravest or best.  
The helpers that bend to all need  
Are sensitive first to heed  
The calls that are nearest.  
The loving all learn the art  
Of opening mind and heart  
With those that are dearest.

And, oh, wherever two souls agree  
With every mood transparent within,  
How pure they grow to the eyes that see,  
How empty themselves of sin!

## XXIII.

The spirit of love is far too rare  
For ever deceit or doubt to dare,—  
A hallow'd spirit whom awed delight  
Must ever worship in robes of white.  
Too oft by a touch that never was meant  
The veil of its holy of holies is rent;  
Too oft from a heedless impious tone  
Love's glory has flown.  
The souls that together lived in light,  
They weep apart through the long, long night.

## XXIV.

Where is hell? Ah me, there is life on earth  
Torn away from all it is worth.  
Things are severed by nature allied:  
Wish and all of its wants divide.  
Who but the loving are dupes of hate?  
Who but the faithful are foiled by fate?  
Who but the seekers of truth can find  
Half of the falsehood framed for the mind?

Who but those with ideals fair  
Deal with a real life hard to bear?  
True to an instinct cheating all trust,  
Flapping white wings that raise but the dust,  
Stuck like stones in the mire of the earth,  
What for our souls are the bright stars worth!

## XXV.

Love is the flame of a fire divine  
Lit and fanned on an earthly shrine.  
Heaven and earth both claim it their own.  
Why should either let it alone?  
Why should the earth not strive to show  
That all of its traits belong below?  
Why should the heaven be loathe to try  
To prove that they all belong on high?  
For the most of us men, betwixt the two,  
The only things that are left to do  
Are to grieve that the one has lowered our love,  
Or to mourn that the other has borne it above.  
Whichever life's plan,  
It leaves the man

*By himself alone  
To make his quest  
For a home to own  
In the land of the best.*

## XXVI.

One seeks not to rhyme  
An excuse for a crime,  
Who speaks but a truth that is true in all time,  
And says that the art  
Of breaking the heart  
Is not confined to one sex at the start.

Who are they that dance  
With our early romance,  
Alluring us on to love with a glance?  
There are girls who decoy  
The more modest boy,  
Whose faith they entrap to treat like a toy.

Who are they that start  
Their hand for our heart,  
Then fling down the mitten to see how we smart?  
They are maids who propose  
That we love as do those  
Who have flirted their limit of love to a close.

Who the most are adverse  
To a man with no purse,  
And smile if we think with no heart he is worse?

They are matrons who trade  
The soul of the maid,  
And the bride deem best who has been best paid.

Who are they that sigh  
As we ask of them "Why?"  
"There is nothing like learning. You learn by  
and-by"  
They are women whose flings  
At the sacredest things  
Have poisoned all life in its life-giving springs.

## XXVII.

Ah me, is it wisdom that makes men say  
That feeling to frankness should never give way?  
It surely is better to trust our own soul  
And be true to ourselves than to others' control.  
In love it is better to live while we live,  
Than to wait till our ghost has nothing to give;  
While all that is in us is yearning to band,  
Give a heart for acceptance as well as a hand.  
Love, rarest of passions, with burnings untold,  
Refines all the being to turn out its gold.  
One sound of their kindling, wrong hears as a  
knell,  
And sinks from that heaven as far as to hell.

He is curst who would clog with caution's alloy  
What strengthens our virtue or sweetens our  
    joy,  
Who would chill into calmness what flows from  
    the heart  
Till it show but the ice-like sparkle of art.

## XXVIII.

Alas, the spirit, aspiring much,  
May find its vision flit at a touch!  
What right has a mortal here to control  
    Another in soul?—  
No more than a fiend, when starting to clutch,  
    And drag another to dwell  
    In its hell!—  
Yet oh, a fiend too  
    Might deem it sweet  
To know of a soul to his own soul true;  
    And if their lips were to meet,  
I think in the swoon that followed that kiss,  
They might die to wrong, and awake in bliss.

## XXIX.

How slightly the long years change our life!  
We broke for a look and a whisper of strife;



We thought that the seasons the past would  
screen:

The winters were chill, but the spring was green.

We call'd up our passion and pride in their  
might;

But others we sought for, brought no delight.

We push'd through the city: we stroll'd through  
the park:

One spake in the silence; one moved in the dark.

We dream'd we could mould our being to stone:

Our heart became cold, and we wandered alone.

God made us for life; a statue we stood.

The surface felt smooth, and the world called us  
good.

But, anon, did the marble-like mien convulse,

The heart beat strongly, and warm flow the  
pulse,

The dull ear listen, the glaring eye see,

Oh love, that forgives, God's love is in thee!

### XXX.

Behold, storm-toss'd in the night,

The soul desponding hears,

Like the fiat of God at creation,

The fiat of love, "Let there be light!"

And the air around one clears,  
 And a radiant face appears,  
 Like a sun, and with it a revelation  
 Of beauty and worth  
 In heaven and earth.

Were they ever before so bright?

Was there ever such glory that burst from  
 gloom \*

As the LOVE OF THE WEDDED PAIR, bride and  
 groom?

*They are not alone  
 But a part of life's whole,  
 Whom love when shown,  
 Hath joined in soul.*

### XXXI.

Now, over the will that slept  
 And dreamt of the guard it kept,  
 There steals the sweetest of powers to possess,  
 So like to the beauty of Holiness,  
 That ever, to souls that awake, it appeals  
 Like a vision that heaven itself reveals.  
 Is it something new or something old?  
 How can it be new and faith so bold?  
 How can it be old, and hope not cold?

Or can it be both?—so dull to the good,  
 Our souls wait long to learn what they should:  
 There is memory far more real than sight;  
 And a state immortal where age brings might.

## XXXII.

An eye, when seeing  
 The sphere of being,  
 May look out through the senses, or else look in.  
 But looks each way, toward a different goal,  
 Toward hell through the senses and heaven  
 through the soul.

Who searches without and not within,  
 He thinks the good far off that is near;  
 And sees no heaven tho' heaven be here.

If that which he worship be worldly pelf,  
 Oh, he knows not  
 What souls have got  
 Whose God is the God of the inward self.

Oh, he knows not  
 Why such as they care never a jot,  
 That he finds fault  
 With the one that they so love and trust.

He may be just,  
 But judges by sight.

The things that are seen may all be white.  
 One's own is the sugar; the others' are salt.

## XXXIII.

But who can trace  
What is under a face?  
Does a quiet mien  
Tell of hope serene  
From a spirit withdrawn, through inward grace,  
To dwell in a realm where is no distress?  
Or is it the stare  
Of one dead to care,  
Since dead to all but to selfishness?—  
The brightest of glances,—oh trust it never!—  
May flash from a passion to scorch forever.  
Light brightens the sky  
When a dawn is nigh,  
Or when a volcano.—Some women, once wed,  
Drop the smile from their face with the veil they  
have shed.  
Some men are suitors who offer their hands  
Like the opening palms  
Of beggars when kneeling and asking for alms;  
But the one that pays heed  
They clutch in their greed,  
Turning fingers to fists and prayers to com-  
mands.  
What need of disguise when a prey is secure,  
And divorce is disgrace in society pure?—

Soon, bird-like, flitting from homes unblest,  
 Their singing is all outside of their nest.

## XXXIV.

What serpent is this  
 That would whisper and hiss  
 The damning advice  
 Of the first Paradise,—

That those who would equal the lords of creation  
 Must mount through force to a lordlier station?  
 True love forever fulfils the ideal  
 Of faith, that in loving, can love to kneel.  
 Ah me, what danger and doom may lurk,  
 Ye daughters of Eve, in a scheme that would  
 wrest

From hearts that would give it,  
 Would ye but live it,

A sovereignty already possest!  
 Oh, how can a mortal dare to touch  
 And tarnish and bruise with an impious clutch  
 The finish of all creation's work,  
 Ere the hand of love  
 Was lifted above?

Oh, how can a spirit ever be proud  
 Of an ermine that fits it no more than a shroud?—

Of beauty that all is only a mask,  
 A label for death-drugs hid in a flask?—  
 Of sympathy waived for sharpness of eye?—  
 Of sweetness, for weakness that wins with a  
     lie?

## XXXV.

Far better than bodies that rot before  
 The breath has left them, and hold no more,  
 In the haunted hell that is glassed by their  
     eyes,  
 A charm to inspire, a thought to make wise,—  
 Far better than these, the face as white  
 As ashes where dead fires drop their light;  
 Far better the eyes, all dim and dry,  
 But blind as one's own that can but cry;  
 Far better the crape and the veils that fall;  
 Far better the living room turned to a pall.  
 All these, whatever the future may give,  
 Have proved that love has a right to live,

*Though all alone  
     One make his quest  
 For a home to own  
     In the land of the best.*

## XXXVI.

Oh why do we sever, and bound to the fray,  
And spurn contentment and court dismay!  
We buckle in pleasure; we buckle on pain;  
We tighten the sinews that tingle and strain;  
We wrench at the nerve's frail fibers until  
We have snapped the tenderest cord with our  
    skill,  
Till no matter what may touch the strings  
No note of harmony longer rings.  
We are off in the dark, down, down for boons  
Where never come suns, where never come  
    moons.  
Nay, that is not half of the woe, not half;  
We lie to our nature; we twit and we laugh;  
    We dare  
To jeer of a love that was ours,  
    We dare, yet there  
Through thorns and tares are living the flowers!

## XXXVII.

Unhelpt by any, what power can save  
The lonely spirit that earth would enslave?  
    Aface that test  
That ever awaits to waylay the best,  
Shall one, when the world

Asserts control,  
 Forget the soul?

With every flag of a high cause furl'd  
 Give up his fight for virtue and truth,  
 And become a man of the world, forsooth?—  
 Ay, ay, a coward, who cringed and bow'd,  
 And has grown content to court the crowd?—  
 A mountebank who, in storm or calm,  
 Turns up or down his willing palm  
 For a pittance from snobs that he thinks to  
     please  
 With a sneer for those and a smile for these?

### XXXVIII.

Full many are paths where life can guide us.  
 Whichever we take from some they divide us.  
 Wherever we go, and follow men not,  
 No slight of their leading is ever forgot;  
     The best of our deeds is quoted as bad;  
 Once John had a devil; once Christ was a sot.  
     Our toil—what of it?—is lonely and sad.  
 But God made us all, in spite of the throng  
 Who deem us, if not like themselves, made wrong.  
 God rules: then perchance we are wiser for deeds  
 That learn from feelings as much as from creeds,



When taught thro' the injuring zeal of our race  
That gentleness shows a growth in grace;  
When taught with Him, whose patience mild  
Sigh'd only to point the man to the child.

## XXXIX.

When the world began,  
What gave it light  
Was the touch of love's electric might.  
That touch still brings, in the heavenly plan,  
The spark of the spirit that makes man man.  
His life all starts in a flash of light,  
A gleam of glory, blessed and bright,  
The while within him is lighted a fire  
Where burns forever the soul's desire;  
And all he owns that gives him worth  
Is that inward glow that shines for earth,  
And shows the love that gave it birth.

## XL.

Let husband and wife  
Be parted in strife;  
Or indifference worse, like a wedge, be driven  
Dividing the two whose vows were given  
The one to the other;

Still, still, how oft, as the years go by,  
A feeble voice and a helpless cry  
May, far from the depths of the soul, conjure  
The LOVE OF THE PARENT, and sweetly assure  
The father and mother

*That none are alone  
But a part of life's whole,  
Whom love, when shown,  
Hath joined in soul.*

## XLI.

The touch of the tenderest hands,  
Where lives were rent in twain,  
May weld again with the sturdiest bands  
The broken links of love's dear chain.  
All filled with a father's pride,  
The groom again has a bride,  
And thrilled by the hope in store  
The bride has a groom once more.

## XLII.

Behold in the parent the world's first priest,  
To tender, till childhood's wants have ceast,

The flickering fires  
That fall and rise in rash desires;  
    To soothe and assuage,  
In a body that thirsts and soul that aspires,  
    The wishes of youth with the wisdom of age;  
    To kneel or to stand  
    With a mission more grand  
Than any but His whose touch divine  
First lit the flame on the human shrine,  
Then left it alone where all men try  
To fan its burning or find it die.

## XLIII.

And what are the laws for word or deed  
Of the priest whose ministry all will heed?  
Oh, what but laws of that in the soul  
Which starts the life that the laws control?  
Ah me, if to love we owe life's giving,  
It must be love that rules right living!  
If thought be that which has gone astray,  
Then love must lead to the wiser way.  
No fighting of error by force does aught  
But change the statement not the thought.  
    To ponder and halt  
    Are seldom all fault;

A natural smile  
Has in it no guile;  
But many a false array of zeal  
Has frightened from frankness, and so from  
weal;  
And many a blast of pious hate  
Been blown by the devil to train his mate.

## XLIV.

If deeds go astray, no force men know  
Can check what nature has made to flow.  
If wrong attract, and right estrange,  
Then love must enter, and subtly change  
What courses forth from the soul below.  
Oh, nothing of good can life secure  
Save when the springs of life are pure!  
    When this they be,  
        Their earliest vent,  
    As mad and free  
As a mount's cascade, may all seem spent  
    In dashing away  
    To spatter and spray,  
    But yet may go  
    In an onward flow  
To flood wide valleys where buds are elate,  
And fruit is forming, and harvests wait.

## XLV.

How early, alas, do the sheltering walls  
Of the home reecho the world's loud calls!  
    No more, at the start,  
Than the note of a playfellow's drum or fife,  
    Anon, from field, or haven, or mart,  
        Is heard  
        A word  
From messmate, partner, sweetheart, wife,  
And the ward that was has left for life.

## XLVI.

'T is well when two who love must sever  
If neither be taken from earth forever.  
'T is well for those of a ward bereft  
If hope of helping him still be left.  
How sad when the one we had led by the hand  
Who had looked to us for every demand  
Of body or soul has gone to the grave,  
And we must live, not die as we crave,  
But watch him pass to the sunless gloom  
Beyond that mile-stone mark of the tomb,  
And, led by those whom never he knew,  
Go journeying on the darkness through,

*As all alone*

*He makes his quest*

*For a home to own*

*In the land of the best!*

### XLVII.

When children have grown and bear no trace  
Of that which charmed in the childhood-face,  
How well for the parent whose love but sought  
For the growth of their spirits in love and  
thought!

How blest is their lot

Whose parting means not

A parting of soul! How blest is the mother

Whose boy is her lover!

How blest is the father who seems but a brother!

How blest all the household who all discover

That even a babe's life just begun

Has a heart and a head that must be won;

That the youngest will with a wish has rights

For all to respect!

Ah, what is there human that nature slights,

And what in life that love can neglect!

The petty desire of the tenderest tone

To God is as great and as dear as one's own.

## XLVIII.

Oh, would that to love one's child and kind  
And, no matter how men differ in mind,  
To give to each a right to bear

His own soul where

The spirit within him and world outside  
And God in both essay to guide,—  
Oh, would that these could insure for each  
That soul-communion that all would reach!  
But no; whoever would seek high aims  
Must oft forego all lower claims.

Not a few there are

Move on so far

That never a man

Helps on their plan,

Nor a confidant's voice

Confirms their choice.

There are years for them, when the loveliest face  
Seems only a framing wherein to trace  
A part of an interest felt in the race.

But oh,

Let us believe they grow,  
The farther that thus they leave behind  
The common paths of all mankind,  
The higher the sound of their spirit's call,  
If the less to one, the more to all.

## XLIX.

No search for the truth with a willing mind  
 Is a search for what one is willing to find,  
 But a search for the willing of all mankind.  
 Who seek but this, though many may leave them  
 And loss of all in the home may grieve them,  
 At last may slowly learn to trace  
 Fair traits of the spirit in each new face;  
 And with LOVE OF THE FELLOWMAN, turning  
     from none,  
 Come, at last, to find earth's family one.  
 In the current of life, wherever it rolls,  
 Like drops in the sea are our separate souls;  
 And the wind and the wave of the stormy weather  
 That dash them apart may dash them together,

*For none are alone  
 But a part of life's whole,  
 Whom love, when shown,  
 Hath joined in soul.*

## L.

Oh, why should a mortal from mortal part!  
 No beauty was ever revealed in art  
 Where rhythm and tone or color and line  
     Did not combine;



And beauty of life was never one's own  
Who, when he had sought it, sought it alone.

## LI.

The world is a ship that sails through space;  
And men are voyagers journeying where  
One destiny waits for all the race,  
One common port for joy or care.  
Why not, like travelers, launched at sea,  
Join hands and hearts, and, in every way,  
If heaven be love, wherever we be,  
Begin the heaven we seek to-day?

## LII.

Alas for the will of which men boast,  
We all may lose what blesses us most!  
No wonder of old  
The world was told  
That the first of our race with thought or voice  
Broke loose from the cords that bound his choice,  
His earliest cry: "The brave have deserts.  
Let the tree be our quest.  
In its fruit is food  
That is more than a test.  
The will that asserts

Its right to command,  
 And calls up the good  
 And the evil, shall stand

The equal of God—for whose wrath who cares?  
 All hail to a heaven for him who dares!”  
 Alas for the finite with strength so slight!  
 The equal of God must have infinite might.

## LIII.

Some more, some less, with little to love,  
 We all to the sky oft leave the dove.  
 We delve away in the depth of our trade;  
 And all get dusty before well paid.  
 Some like the dust; some mourn its need;  
 And some are only intent to succeed.  
 Too may grow prostitutes, hugging to all,  
 Good, bad, or indifferent, beauty or scall,  
 Till all wishes that worth would have kept  
 Die out of the man unwept.  
 No pride or shame for himself or his kind  
 Brings up to the cheek one blush.  
 Whatever is there is a counterfeit flush,—  
 Mere paint on the surface of sham behind.

## LIV.

There are times when the vilest of men disguises  
 His foulness in forms that love most prizes;

But alas! his gracious and graceful gait  
The vilest of men takes on too late.  
It never appears like a natural trait.  
Nor long, I deem, will his mien cajole  
    Those finding the whole  
Of the sweet in his coating and not in the  
    soul.

Who tastes that dainty, alas, but gnashes  
At apples of Sodom!—he bites into ashes.  
As well pursue a will-o'wisp's flare!—  
His fire of devotion is all in the air.  
As well touch a carcass!—those pulsings avow'd  
Are worms that go crawling round under a  
    shroud.

No soul is within him our soul to accost.  
His might, not right, of repentance is lost.  
The glut of the senses, like vultures above  
A life that is dead, leaves nothing to love.

## LV.

Sad, sad, indeed, is the lot of those  
Whom no one mourns when their coffins close.  
How lone, when the robes of earth-life fall,  
Are spirits that hear no welcoming call;  
Are spirits that see no smile of delight,  
But, flying in shame from all things bright,

And, hiding in horror themselves have made,  
Live ever in sunshine and know but shade,

*As all alone*

*They make their quest*

*For a home to own*

*In the land of the best !*

### LVI.

But even with sin

May rescue begin,

And out of a fall

Come the safety of all,—

Come the knowledge of good and as well as of  
bad,

With the knowledge of ill from the shade of the  
sad,

The knowledge of faith which alone can unite  
A soul to the Infinite source of light.

### LVII.

It must have been in the years gone long

When the world was young, and men went  
wrong,

That love it was parted them all, and was able  
To hinder earth's ill by a flood or a Babel,—

To make life's disciplined right succeed  
 Through the law of the Persian and lance of  
     the Mede;  
 And where truth moved on, tho' few might know  
     it,  
 To rule by the meek and to lead by the poet

## LVIII.

If ever the mind to faith be brought,  
 Is it love that shall rule the inward thought?  
 Is it love that shall rule the outward life  
 And crown both source and sum of strife?—  
 Is it only that which springs from the heart  
     That can ever impart  
 What fills the veins with vigor infused  
 And thrills the limbs with strength to be used?  
 Is it only this that can ever fulfill  
 The way of the world's Creator's will,  
     And thus create  
     That heavenly state  
 For which men work the while they wait?

## LIX.

What bliss, when gazing, dazed and dim,  
 Down through the depths of mystery  
 From which creation's wonders brim,  
 To dream that all evolves above

A source that is ever the LOVE OF LOVE!—  
 Whose rule is a rule of sympathy,  
 Whose law is a law of liberty,  
     Whose home of union  
 A holy communion

*Where none are alone  
 But a part of life's whole,  
 Whom love, when shown,  
 Hath joined in soul!*

## LX.

Life is a mystery, mystery-bound.  
 Above or about us no rest is found;  
 But, center'd in every cycling change,  
 If one hope draw us, wherever we range,  
 Then must it be that the soul inclined  
 To merely an earthly love must find  
     With each new light  
     That cheers the sight  
 The shaft of a corridor stretched afar  
 To where the glories of all love are,—  
 A shaft to whiten and brighten the way  
 To a hall and home where ends the day,  
 And heaven and earth, life's groom and bride,  
 Shall gather their children, trained and tried,

And those that have learned  
What faith has earned,  
Shall sleep the slumber of all the blest  
And dream the dreams of an endless rest.





SONNETS.



## THE LEADER.

THE wind swept toward him, and the sunlight  
glanced  
From his bright armor, but the smoke and dust  
Hid all his comrades in a train august  
Trailed from him, as in splendor he advanced.  
We deemed him leader, yet he merely chanced  
To be where all things round him could adjust  
To his position wind and sun, and thrust  
On him a prominence naught else enhanced.  
Oh blame not wind or sun, nor envy him!  
What though the world too highly rate his worth?  
Who, who, for this, would choose a rôle so mean,  
So distant from the clouds that always dim  
The central fight?—It is one law of earth  
That godlike leaders work, like God, unseen.

---

## THE SOLITARY SINGER.

WHIRRED like the moulting wings of some  
vast swan,  
The snow-blast broods above the landscape  
drear;

But through the wild wind shivers, high and  
 clear,  
 The call of one lone bird that sings anon.  
 Sing on, thou child of warmth and light, sing on!  
 I know thy loneliness, I know thy cheer.  
 Thy call will never bring one comrade near,  
 Nor make the world about less chill and wan.  
 But, oh, no tempest can outblow, sweet bird,  
 Those drafts thine ardent spirit draws to bring  
 The breath of heaven to fill thy trembling breast,  
 So thrilled to voice the world's Creator's word!  
 Whom God inspires, though they unheeded sing,  
 May be through mere expression wholly blest.

---

STAKING ALL.

**B**BETTER to stake one's all on some high cause  
 And lose, than never know the spirit's thrill  
 When gates of heaven are seen, past mortal ill,  
 Though light that bursts from them at once  
 withdraws.

'T is not the accent of this world's applause  
 That marks the rhythm of the songs that fill  
 Heaven's vault, and, with their sweetness, well-  
 nigh still  
 The wings of angels, tempted then to pause.

Things viewed or heard can bring us bliss alone  
 When, moved to pass beyond each earthly wall,  
 And borne to heights mere feet have never trod,  
 We reach a region far above our own,  
 Where all souls live for one and one for all,  
 And each finds full companionship with God.

---

 OBSCURITY.

**D**EEM not thyself a slave because assigned  
 To small obscurity where few can view  
 Thy steadfast industry, thy purpose true,  
 Thy sacrifice that seems all undivined.  
 The feet that tread the treadmill no more bind  
 The spirit to their petty task, than do  
 Our brains bind thought whose words, by  
     working through,  
 Not in, this mortal framework, lead their kind.  
 Full many a blaze-mailed knight men's cheers  
     allure  
 To wrong by which mere groundling-praise is  
     won;  
 While serfs, though soil-stained, keep life's re-  
     cord pure  
 Because their dust-hid deeds are wrought for  
     none

Save One for whom no life is too obscure  
To show the spirit in which work is done.

---

## INFLUENCE.

O H, for the hope that once inspired my tongue  
Ere life had known of all these weary  
years, —  
Sad nights whose dreams were launched in  
silent tears,  
And sadder days whose deeds to wreck were  
flung!  
How nobler had my purpose died when young,  
Not numbed by blows, and not abashed by  
jeers,  
Nor hounded by a world of clubs and spears  
To make faith fly to cover, cowed and stung!  
Yet why judge influence by what most men  
prize?  
Must that which leads the spirit have recourse  
To what attracts to station, or to guise?  
Naught draws life heavenward like the sun-  
light's force.  
But sunlight never blest one man with eyes  
Lured but to gaze upon its blinding source.

## THE FINAL VERDICT.

ACCEPT men's judgment of my work?—  
 Not one

Knows what I do, or why. I will not heed  
 Those guessing how my structure may succeed  
 From scaffoldings about it, scarce begun.  
 I will not think with those who would let none  
 But some "old master" dictate my new deed,  
 As if a plan to fit the future's need  
 Could all be fashioned on what once was done!  
 Deem not the worthiest art-work wrought by  
 those

Whose thoughts and aims are easiest to find.  
 Full oft the purpose that it subtly shows  
 Will long elude the keenest searching mind;  
 And, sometimes, not before this life shall close  
 Can what it means for spirit be divined.

---

THE CHANCE THAT COMES TO  
 EVERY MAN

THE chance that comes to every man—the  
 chance!

Ah, but it does not come to every man.  
 The hero finds a place not in his plan,  
 And, while he fills it well, the lines advance,

The bugle calls, the flashing weapons glance;  
 The smoke of conflict hides the shouting van,  
 And glory comes; but he, as he began,  
 He guards the rear,—a slave of circumstance.  
 The greatest victory may be quickest won;  
 And they who happen to be in the lead  
 Are hailed as leaders, and the rest as led.  
 But, oh, the work, ere fighting had begun!  
 The drill! the foresight!—Well, some men suc-  
     ceed,  
 And some do not, and soon will all be dead.

---

### HEREDITY.

WE know not whence came manhood; but  
     we know  
 Whence came the man,—from unfulfilled de-  
     sire  
 When springs that welled from body quenched  
     the fire  
 That burned to fuse in one two souls aglow.  
 Embodiment of wish, on earth below,  
 For union which no earth-forms can acquire,  
 Man is a spirit, aimed for regions higher,  
 Entrapped and entrained in a world of woe.



What wonder if he wander on and on  
Through ways that bring no respite and no rest?  
What wonder if no crown that shines upon  
His brow can ever sate ambition's quest?  
What wonder if death only end, anon,  
A strife that never one deems wholly blest?

---

## UNCONSCIOUS CHARM.

UNCONSCIOUS of their charm, the wind-  
swayed trees  
Their welcomes wave; and hills with flower-lined  
ways  
Rise dawn-like, and, bedimmed with morning  
haze  
Like incense visible, make sweet the breeze.  
And, all unconscious of their charm as these,  
The fair, sweet children pass me in their plays,  
Nor dream that seeing them one joy conveys  
To me whom they feel no desire to please.  
Ah, thus unconscious, must each human will  
Inspire enchantment in a fellow-soul?  
Vain then to hope that our mere toil or skill  
Can gain our life or art its lordliest rôle.  
The spirit's touch that stirs the spirit's thrill  
Starts in a source too deep for man's control.

## IN THE ART-MUSEUM.

**F**AR in the dome the limnered angels poise  
 Above high cliffs of columns; while, below,  
 The tiles gleam like a sunset-lake aglow  
 When with each wavelet some new sunbeam toys.  
 Now from without a troop of loud-heeled boys  
 And shrill-voiced girls come bounding, then,  
     more slow,  
 Proceed on tiptoe, whispering as they go,  
 Their whole demean the ghost of former noise.  
 No temple this, yet sacred none the less  
 Through art, the handcraft that transcribes  
     man's best  
 In feeling, thought, and skill, the wage of duty.  
 Ah, well man's best may make this earth seem  
     blest!  
 The dim-veiled beauty of God's holiness  
 Looms always through art's holiness of beauty.

---

 THE CLIMBER.

**F**ROM youth these mounts have lured me on,  
     until  
 In age I stand amid their frost and snow;  
 And but when searching back through vales  
     below

Descry what once inspired my tireless will.  
 First, youth's hot fever, then numb age's chill,  
 And naught between them of enjoyment, oh,  
 Why could my life's long effort never know  
 Rewards that could repay my toil and skill?  
 Can it be true that aims too grand, too high,  
 May miss the garden sought, where, hour by  
 hour,

The fellow-workers in new Edens meet?  
 Can but the small seed's growing, by-and-by,  
 Engarland all one's paths with leaf and flower,  
 And keep the world he lives in fresh and sweet?

---

### SENSE AND SOUL.

**L**ET not mere earthly forms, however bright,  
 Keep us of heaven's high glory unaware.  
 They are but vehicles of life they bear  
 Up toward the portals of eternal light.  
 Let no one take the lamps men hang at night  
 For stars that never leave the upper air;  
 Or think a dawn worth while comes anywhere  
 Except where skies and sunlight bring the sight.  
 Shame on the groundling thought that always  
 weighs  
 Against endangered rights that call aloft

Its own low interests it would guard too well.  
 What though these fall like cinders from the  
     blaze  
 Of love too ardent? Ours are souls that oft  
 We strip for heaven by flinging sense to hell.

---

### CLASS AND CASTE.

**C**LASS me not with your classes,—me who  
     came  
 From God, and common dust! I will not don  
 These robes, these badges, nay, nor be whirled  
     on  
 Behind the liveries that high state proclaim.  
 For me no earthly splendor shall outflame  
 Heaven's light, or that high realm it shines upon;  
 No earthly station satisfy, anon,  
 Aims that arrested there would rest in shame.  
 For him who judges manhood by its best  
 There is no noblest rank not won by soul,  
 No throne worth seeking reached on steps of  
     sod,  
 No life that ever can seem wholly blest  
 But feels itself a part of that great whole,  
 At one with which is being one with God.

**THE FAITH THAT DOUBTS.**

**T**HE church-bell tolls; the organ tones begin;  
Bright liveries flaunt the advent of the  
proud;  
And, thronged through aisles in silks that rustle  
loud,  
The world without becomes the church within.  
With incantations exorcising sin,  
The white-robed choir and priests have marched  
and bowed;  
And pleas, politely phrased to please the crowd,  
Have flattered those whose coin the coffers win.  
And thus, forsooth, with lip and eye and ear  
Men seek to honor him whose one chief call  
Was "Follow me." Were they to meet him here,  
Could those whose faith these outward forms  
enthrall  
Trust to the spirit in him, or revere  
The kind of living for which he gave all?

---

**BROADENING ONE'S OUTLOOK.**

**O**H, not the outward things that may incite  
Give the true measure of the inward aim!  
Our minds are deeper than our deeds proclaim;  
And only thought can make them move aright.

In youth all secret loathings leap to light.  
We hunt for what has caused them as for game,  
Blow loud our horns, and him they halt not  
    blame;  
Nor rest till nothing hostile loom in sight.  
In age, grown mild, we rather would not see  
The forms once fought, we rather would not  
    mind  
Than mend the lack of traits once highly prized.  
Ah, has the earnest aim then ceased to be?  
Or have our thought-trained spirits learned to  
    find  
Some worth in things that once we but despised?

---

### OUR AFFINITY.

**I**N that dear sport where Cupid leads the chase,  
Of heavenly light is framed each gentle dart;  
And where it speeds, with photographic art,  
It leaves an image nothing can efface.  
No laws for merely seed and soil debase  
The methods used for love within the heart.  
That heart responds, before a sprout can start,  
With flower and fruit whose growth no seasons  
    trace.

Yes, all through life, whenever come in view  
Those helping spirits, always on the quest  
For moods too like their own moods to rebuff  
The thought that is to their own thinking true,  
To know our own twin angel from the rest,  
One touch, one look, one accent is enough.

---

## MY ACTRESS.

**H**ER pictures, not herself, affect me so,—  
Her finished photographs, but not the  
plates  
Where alchemy's dark conjuring creates  
What rises from the glassy deeps below.  
My life is loveless, and her play can show  
That which I might have loved, and so it mates  
And cheers my soul, the while lone wish awaits  
The spirit-form that haunts the life I know.  
Real lovers, hand in hand, may fail to see  
How she, with feigned familiarities,  
Can make more firm my faith in my ideal.  
Ah, they wot not that life has left to me  
But dreams of that which might be, not what is;  
And, while no dream holds her, I feel them  
real.

## THE FIRST FASCINATION.

**A** CROSS the threshold of this life below,  
Oft comes a form more sacred than of  
friend,  
With which, entranced by love, we onward wend,  
Our thoughts, our cheeks, our pulses all aglow.  
Oh, ye that boast uprightness, do ye know  
How sweet a tone might then have bid it end?  
Were such not heard or heeded, 't will be  
kenned  
Some day that some good angel made it so.  
Thou first of lovers, when this life goes by,  
Its lists made out and all things understood,  
If right be ours, what shall we owe the touch  
Of thy dear hand, and thy pure word and eye!  
The saved think less that they themselves were  
good  
Than that they were not tempted overmuch.

---

## THE LOST FRIEND.

**I** WOULD not doubt your word,—nor could  
gainsay  
The proof you show me, blind be to that fire  
Which, blazing in the torch of your desire,  
Makes all my night of doubt as bright as day.



But side by side with him through all the way  
I toiled till now; nor ever could aspire  
To aught past where he seemed to call me higher,  
And lead straight onward, if I dared to stray.  
Why, we were like two arms that limb one frame,  
Two hands that ply one work, two eyes that trace  
One onward path, two ears that heed the same  
Inciting cry, two steeds that lead the race  
Yoked to one car, twin rivals for one aim,—  
To think my friend base, I myself were base.

---

FOR A BOOK MADE UP OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUTHORS.

OH, not for wealth or fame do poets yearn  
With ardor fired to burnish phrase and  
line!

Nay, not for this! Their fervor would enshrine  
In forms as bright bright thoughts that in them  
burn.

What luck is mine, then, freed from all concern  
About how I a setting may design  
To make my paste another's gem outshine?  
My light, though slight, a beacon's place may  
earn!

Less due to oil than to reflectors round  
A wick's weak flicker is the blaze that blinds.  
How mine should blaze for you, then, gazing at  
This offering, haloed all about, ray-bound  
By bright reflections of the brightest minds!—  
Art's proof is in the setting. Judge by that.

---

## FORD'S GLEN,

WILLIAMSTOWN.

WHEN first I followed up thy modest brook,  
And left the northwest road, and came  
on thee,  
How grand thy wood-crowned rocks appeared  
to be  
Whose high-arched foliage heaven's dim light  
forsook!  
But when, years later, I came back to look  
On what so awed, I stood amazed to see  
How small and shrunk, when shorn of every  
tree,  
Were all that I for lofty cliffs mistook.  
Then, in my college-town, I joined, once more,  
The mates I so had honored in my youth.

Alas, in some, no mystery seemed to lurk  
Where hights of promise had so loomed of yore!  
Has life no sphere in which one finds, forsooth,  
No wrong to nature wrought by man's mean  
work?

---

## PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.

WELL placed, my Princeton, on the fore-  
most range  
Where Allegheny uplands first appear  
Bent down to greet the sea, bent up to rear  
What walls our continent of rock and grange!  
If English sires, too loyal to seek change,  
Their Kingston, Queenston, Princeton founded  
here,  
It made no Witherspoon nor Stockton fear  
A throne that dared their new land's rights  
estrangle.  
Nor now shall Princeton, welcoming to her  
school  
The thought of Europe, find her own less bold  
Because of that which from abroad is drafted.  
Let stay thy "classics"! No one not a fool  
To get new learning need forget the old;  
And minds, like fruit-trees, bear their best when  
grafted.

## IN PRINCETON CEMETERY.

THERE are few kindred places on the earth  
Where rest as many great men as lie here;  
Or, in proportion, more men to revere  
Of those whose learning was outweighed by  
worth.  
Not strange then that, at many a household-  
hearth  
And student desk, our generation fear  
To change or question aught these men held dear;  
As if, forsooth, a saint could need new birth!  
Yet all whose learning brings them fame to last  
Begin by doubting what earth claims it knows.  
Why should not their true follower do the same?  
Think not the present can but phase the past.  
The fire whose dying brand so steadfast glows  
Once proved its life through flickerings of its  
flame.

---

## IN BONAVENTURE CEMETERY,

SAVANNAH.

THE live-oak's bending boughs, gray-draped  
in moss,  
Like mourning sentinels, guard the winding  
ways;

But under them each grave the eye surveys  
Is wreathed with flowers that breezes gently  
toss.

Ah, if the bowed oaks fitly frame our loss,  
Beneath them crowd, too, symbols of the bays  
To crown our loved ones in those far, fair days  
That nights end not and storms can never  
cross.

Though bodies fail, souls need not meet de-  
feat.

Nay, let our spirits rise above like these  
Blithe birds that, winged from out sweet flowery  
beds,

Soar up and sing through clouds of moss-hung  
trees,

Sing as of dreams of beauty, sure to greet  
The slumber on which God such beauty spreads.

---

### THE GRAVE OF GENIUS.

**T**READ softly. Nothing mortal we revere  
Within the dwelling that we stand before.  
No form will come to meet us from the door.  
Only the spirit of the man is near.  
Only to spirit do men ever rear

These shafts like arms uplifted to implore  
The world to honor those we see no more,  
But whose white souls the white tomb symbols  
here.

Ah, what could ever lead earth's dull throngs on  
To those bright goals, concealed from mortal  
view

In future glory for which good men plan,  
Except some spirit heaven had shone upon?  
Our awe for genius is a worship due  
To that which comes from God and not from  
man.

SONGS AND HYMNS.  
FROM VARIOUS SOURCES PUBLISHED AND  
NOT PUBLISHED.





## WHERE DWELL THE GODS?

WHERE dwell the gods?  
Where dwell the gods?

Oh, dwell they in the sky?

Or come they near in gloom or gleam  
Of earth or air or wood or stream?

Oh, yes, the gods are all on high;  
But, robed in all that teem or seem  
Where eye can spy or fancy fly,  
The gods are always nigh.

How speak the gods?

How speak the gods?

In thunder from the sky?

In storms that o'er the cloud-banks pour,  
Or dash in waves along the shore?

Oh, yes, the gods are all on high;  
But not alone in rush and roar,  
Wherever breeze or breath can sigh  
The gods are always nigh.

How touch the gods?  
How touch the gods?  
Oh, reach they from the sky  
Wherever airy fingers brush  
The leaves that throb, the cheeks that flush?  
Oh, yes, the gods are all on high;  
But in the thrills that fill the hush  
When naught without is passing by,  
The gods are always nigh.

Where look the gods?  
Where look the gods?  
In glances from the sky?  
Down through the lightning's death-dealt blaze,  
Or thrilling through the starry rays?  
Oh, yes, the gods are all on high;  
But in the looks that on us gaze  
From out the love-lit human eye  
The gods are always nigh.

—*Written for "The Aztec God."*

---

### ALL HAIL THE GOD!

ALL hail the god! All hail and laud  
The god we now enthrone,  
Whose realms extend, all bright and broad,  
Beyond the seas and stars and aught

That ears have heard, or eyes have sought,  
Or hands could ever own.  
All hail the god! All hail the god!  
Upon the man we call;  
But bright behind the gaze we greet,  
There gleams a glory yet to meet  
Our souls beholding past the gloom  
Of toil and trouble, tear and tomb,  
The god beyond it all.

All hail the god! All hail and laud  
The god we bow before,  
Whose altar fires, while all are awed,  
Are lit in souls that flash through eyes  
That light for heaven itself supplies,  
Nor could one wish for more.  
All hail the god! All hail the god!  
Upon the man we call;  
But bright behind the gaze we greet,  
There gleams a glory yet to meet  
Our souls beholding past the gloom  
Of toil and trouble, tear and tomb,  
The god beyond it all.

—*Idem.*

OH, NOT WHAT LIFE APPEARS TO BE.

O H, not what life appears to be,  
 Is what in life is true.  
 Inveiled behind the forms we see  
     Are things we cannot view.  
 What but the spirit working through  
 The guise men wear to what they do  
 Reveals the force that, foul or fair,  
 Awakes and makes the nature there?

The sunshine shows the worth of suns,  
     The moisture, of the shower;  
 The stream of rills from which it runs,  
     The fragrance, of the flower;  
 And, oh, the spirit when it springs  
 Above the reach of earthly things,  
 As fall the limbs that feed the shrine,  
 Reveals the life to be divine.

—Written for “*The Aztec God.*”

---

ALL HAIL THE SUN.

A LL hail the sun that brings the light,  
 All hail the rays that shower,  
 And wake the barren wastes of night  
     To germ and leaf and flower.

All hail the life behind the sun,  
 All hail the gods that dwell  
 Where men whose earthly race is run  
 Are borne, and all is well.

All hail the form of him who dies,  
 All hail the soul that wends  
 Up through the skies, and onward hies.  
 All hail the gods, our friends.

—*Idem.*

---

O LIFE DIVINE.

O LIFE divine, from thee there springs  
 All good that germs and grows,  
 Thy Light behind the sunlight brings  
 The harvests to their close.

O Life divine, thou art the source  
 Of truth within the soul;  
 Thou art the guide through all the course  
 That leads it to its goal.

O Life divine, what soul succeeds  
 In aught on earth but he  
 Who moves as all desires and deeds  
 Are lured and led by thee!

—*Written for "Columbus."*

## O GOD OF ALL THINGS LIVING.

O GOD of all things living,  
 Our Sovereign, Saviour, Guide,  
 All gifts are of Thy giving,  
 All gains by Thee supplied.

The stars that make  
 High aims awake  
 Are but what Thine eye seest.  
 The stroke and stress  
 That earn success

Are but what Thou decreest.  
 O God of all things living,  
 Our Sovereign, Saviour, Guide,  
 All gifts are of Thy giving,  
 All gains by Thee supplied.

O God, all good bestowing  
 On souls that seek Thy way,  
 Our hearts, with joy o'erflowing,  
 Give thanks to Thee to-day.  
 In all the past  
 Whose blessings last,  
 Thy presence fills the story;  
 And all the gleams  
 That gild our dreams  
 Obtain from Thee their glory.

O God, all good bestowing  
 On souls that seek Thy way,  
 Our hearts, with joy o'erflowing,  
 Give thanks to Thee to-day.

—Written for "Columbus."

---

## HAIL TO THE HERO, HOME FROM STRIFE.

**H**AIL to the hero, home from strife,  
 Pride of our hearts and hope of our life,  
 Hail to his glancing crest and plume,  
 Flashed like lightning into the gloom.  
 Hail to the grit that, when borne from view,  
 Out of the darkness brought him through,  
 Sprout of the slough-pit, bud of the thorn,  
 After the night  
 The light of the morn.  
 Crown him with flowers and cull them bright.  
 Crown him, the man of the land's delight.

Hail to the hero, home from strife,  
 Pride of our hearts and hope of our life.  
 Hail to the ring of the voice that taught  
 Drumming and roaring the rhythm of thought.

Hail to the tone that could change to a cheer  
 Groan and shriek of a startled fear,  
 Hushing to rills the flood that whirred,  
     Chorusing night  
     With songs of the bird.  
 Shout him a welcome, and shout with might,  
 Shout for the man of the land's delight.

—*Written for "Columbus."*

---

## O SOUL, WHAT EARTHLY CROWN.

O SOUL, what earthly crown  
     Is bright as his renown  
     Whose tireless race  
 Outruns the world's too halting pace,  
 To reach, beyond the things men heed,  
 That which they know not of, but need!

O soul, what man can be  
 As near to Christ as he  
     Who looks to life  
 Not first for fame and last for strife;  
 But shuns no loss nor pain that brings  
 The world to new and better things!

—*Idem.*



## ALL HAIL THE QUEEN!

ALL hail the Queen!  
No thrills can fill the lover's breast  
For that first love he loves the best,  
Like ours that throb to each appeal  
Of her in whom, enthroned above  
The nation's heart, we see, we feel  
The symbol of the sway we love,  
The while we hail our Queen.

All hail the Queen!  
No cause can rouse the soul of strife  
In men who war for child and wife,  
Like ours that, where her battles be,  
Know not of rest until, above  
The foe that falls, enthroned we see  
The symbol of the sway we love,  
The while we hail our Queen.

All hail the Queen!  
No loyalty can make a son  
Show what a mother's love has done,  
Like ours who press through land and sea,  
Our one reward to find above  
Our gains that show what man can be,  
The symbol of the sway we love,  
The while we hail our Queen. —*Idem.*

## WE LIVE BUT FOR BUBBLES.

**W**E live but for bubbles, and those who  
know  
The way of the world their bubbles will blow.  
Ay, all but whose doings are fated to be  
No more than are drops in an infinite sea,  
Will blow them, and show them, till, by and by,  
They fill and float to the air on high;  
Hoho! hoho! and the world will thus  
Know how big a bubble can come from us.

We live but for bubbles that grow and glow  
The bigger and brighter the more we blow;  
And, borne on the breath of the breeze around  
Wherever the tides of the time are bound,  
There is nothing of earth or of heaven in sight  
But they image it all in a rainbow light;  
Hoho! hoho! and the world will thus  
Know how bright a bubble can come from us.

We live but for bubbles a-dance in the blast,  
But who can tell how long they will last?  
So swell your cheeks, and puff, and fan,  
And make the most of them while you can,  
For if ever the breath in them fail, they will pop,  
And only be drizzles to dry as they drop;

Hoho! hoho! and the world will thus  
Be done with the bubbles that come from us.

—Written for “Cecil the Seer.”

---

## OH, WHO HAS KNOWN.

OH, who has known the whole of light,  
That knows it day by day,  
Where suns that make the morning bright,  
At evening, pass away?  
Before the day, beyond the day,  
Above the suns that roll,  
There was a light, there waits a light  
That never leaves the soul.

Oh, who has weighed the worth of light  
That gauged it by the gleam  
That came within the range of sight,  
And thought the rest a dream?  
Before that sight, beyond that sight  
And all that mortals deem,  
There was a light, there waits a light,  
Where things are all they seem.

—*Idem.*

## TWO SPRINGS OF LIFE.

TWO springs of life,—in air and earth;  
Two tides,—in soul and sod;  
Two natures,—wrought of breath and birth;  
Two aims,—in cloud and clod;—  
Oh, where were worlds, or where were worth  
Without the two, and God?

Two movements in the heaving breast;  
Two, in the beating heart;  
Two, in the swaying soldier's crest;  
Two, in the strokes of art;—  
Oh where in aught of mortal quest,  
Are e'er the two apart?

Two times of day,—in gloom and glow;  
Two realms—of dream and deed;  
Two seasons—bringing sod and snow;  
Two states—of fleshed and freed;—  
Oh where is it that life would go,  
But through the two they lead?

Two frames that meet,—the strong, the fair,  
True love in both begun;  
Two souls that form a single pair;  
Two courses both have run;—

Oh where is life in earth or air,  
And not with these at one?

—Written for “*Cecil the Seer.*”

---

IN THE WORLD OF CARE AND SORROW.

I N the world of care and sorrow  
Cloud and darkness veil the way,  
But in heaven there waits a morrow  
Where the night shall turn to day,  
Where the spirit-light in rising,  
Yet shall gild the clouds of fear,  
And the shadows, long disguising,  
Lift and leave the landscape clear.

When the soul, amid that glory,  
Finds its earthly garments fall,  
Harm and anguish end their story,  
Health and beauty come to all;  
No more fleshly chains can fetter  
Faith that longs to soar above;  
None to duty seems a debtor,  
And the only law is love.

There is ended earthly scheming,  
Earthly struggle sinks to sleep;  
Souls have passed from deed to dreaming,  
And they have no watch to keep;

For the world has wrought its mission,  
 And the wheels of labor rest;  
 And the faithful find fruition,  
 And the true become the blest.

—Written for "*Cecil the Secr.*"

— — —

### THE TRUMPETS CALL TO ACTION.

**T**HE trumpets call to action  
 Through all the threatened land,  
 No more is heard of faction,  
 The time has come to band.  
 What soul can see  
 The state in fear, and fail to be  
 Beneath the flag, enrolled with all  
 That heed the trumpet's call?  
 No patriots are they who can see  
 The state in fear and fail to be  
 Beneath the flag, enrolled with all  
 That heed the trumpet's call.

The best of men are brothers.  
 The worst can be a foe;  
 And not for self, but others,  
 True men to battle go.  
 No longer meek,  
 Where wrong is cruel, right is weak,

Or aught has brought the base to band,—  
They throng to lend a hand.

No true men are they who can see  
The state in fear, and fail to be  
Beneath the flag, enrolled with all  
That heed the trumpet's call.

Who, think you, live in story  
That live for self alone?

Who care to spread his glory  
That cares not for their own?

In every strife  
That stirs the pulse to nobler life,  
The man that has the thrilling heart,  
He plays the thrilling part.

No heroes are they who can see  
The state in fear, and fail to be  
Beneath the flag, enrolled with all  
That heed the trumpet's call.

—*Idem.*

---

## OH, WHY DO WE CARE?

**O**H, what is the matter, and why do we care  
For an empty, visionless whiff of air?  
Ah, though the wind be nothing to see,  
It bends and batters and breaks the tree;

And oh, we know a breeze that serves  
To shock and shiver and shatter the nerves,  
And snuff the light of life with a breath;  
It has nothing to see, but it ends in death—

Ho ho, ho ho,

That blow, blow, blow, blow, blow!

Oh, what is the matter, and why do we care  
For a silent sight of the sunshine there?

Ah, though no sound may rouse the ear,  
The bud and blossom of spring are here;

And oh, we know a sight so bright

It cheers the world like heavenly light,

Till far away fly doubt and strife;

It has nothing to hear, but it lures to life—

High high, high high,

That eye, eye, eye, eye, eye!

—*Written for "The Ranch Girl."*

---

AH, BOYS, WHEN WE FILL OUR  
GLASSES.

AH, boys, when we fill our glasses,  
We may drink to whatever else passes,  
But whenever we quaff  
To life's better half,  
We must always drink to the lasses.



You may journey to Nice or to Paris  
For a cough that a song may embarrass;  
    But the air of the West  
    Is the freshest and best;  
And the sweetest, the air of its heiress.

—*Idem.*

---

## OUR LIVES ARE VAPORS.

OUR lives are vapors forced to roam,  
    Of sun and storm the prey;  
But cling like mists, with hills their home,  
    Together while they may.

*Chorus:* And, friends, whate'er may come to you,  
    Join hand and voice with mine,  
And swear the love that here we knew  
    Shall never know decline.

Our lives are vapors, whirled through skies,  
    Where some by storms are torn,  
And some the sunlight glorifies,  
    And some to heaven are borne.

*Chorus:* But, friends, whate'er may come to  
    you, etc.

Our lives are vapors wrecked and lost.  
 None sail their journey through.  
 Ere long behind some blow that tost,  
 Will naught be left but blue.

*Chorus:* But, friends, whate'er may come to  
 you, etc.

—Written for “*The Ranch Girl.*”

---

### MONEY AND MAN.

THE time will come when money  
 Will pay what work is worth;  
 Will buy your task, and none will ask  
 Your station or your birth.  
 The right to earnings will be won  
 By what a man himself has done.

Oh!—

The time will come when money  
 Will pay what work is worth.

The time will come when money  
 Will not buy one a crown—  
 To lift a snob above the mob  
 And keep all others down.

For men, to inward worth alert,  
Will only bow to true desert.

Oh!—

The time will come when money  
Will not buy one a crown.

The time will come when money  
Will not seem more than man;  
But hearts will yearn with all they earn  
To help all men they can.

In rolls of honor in that state,  
Great love alone will make men great.

Oh!—

The time will come when money  
Will not seem more than man.

—*Written for "The Little Twin Tramps."*

---

### JUST THE THING HE THINKS.

THE sun gives everything its light;  
The mind gives everything its thought;  
And what we deem is dark or bright,  
Reflects but what ourselves have brought.  
That friend, whose own extorting clinks  
In hands he holds to help the world;  
That foe, from whom each neighbor shrinks

Though not returning blows he hurled,—  
Is just the thing he thinks.

A college student with a bang,  
Who struts with open mouth about,  
And thinks, by slinging slaps of slang,  
His tongue can lick all censure out;  
Whose mouth, if busied not with drinks,  
When asked what he has learned at school,  
Is kept as closed as if a sphynx,  
For fear to show himself a fool,—  
Is just the thing he thinks.

A belle, made so by wiggling waist  
And tongue that never ceases wagging,  
Who wanted once to wed in haste  
But long has found all lovers lagging,  
And powders now, and paints and prinks,  
And stuffs the thin and straps the stout,  
For fear, through ways that ape a minx,  
The world, alas, may find her out,—  
Is just the thing she thinks.

A man who lost a former bride  
And mourns her memory on his hat,  
A hat he gently waves aside  
That he may gaze more ladies at,

The while for each he dives yet shrinks  
For fear all love that he can vow  
Behind that eye that winks and blinks  
Is hardly worth the having now,—  
Is just the thing he thinks.

The man who boasts a family tree,  
And great grandpas that came and went,  
Which proves to all, the more they see,  
How great has been his own descent;  
And who from self-made people shrinks  
That now do what his grandpas did,  
Lest other men may see the links  
That bind to what he wishes hid,—  
Is just the thing he thinks.

The gallery-bird with flying sleeves  
That tempt us here to shoot or shoo;  
The balcony-belle who half believes  
All music lures a beau to woo;  
The dear bald head that nods and blinks;  
And each whose clapping bids us folks  
Repeat our notes like bobolinks  
Lest some may think he miss'd our jokes,—  
Is just the thing he thinks.

—Written for "*The Little Twin Tramps.*"

## IT DOES NOT SEEM FREE TO ME.

OH you who prate of freedom,  
Say, are you fools or knaves?—  
Of all the things men like the best,  
The first is being slaves.  
Who ever yet bought coat or hat,  
Or wore a gown or bustle,  
That dared defy the style in that  
Which made the parlor rustle?  
Though it may clothe our dearest friend,  
Outside our own set, in the end,  
The fashionless we hustle.  
Oh, you may call that being free,  
But it does not seem free to me.

Oh you who prate of freedom,  
You send your babes to schools,  
And just when old enough to work,  
You turn them all to tools;  
And they, lest when, left free from strife,  
Mere rest should bring them pleasure,  
Are not content, till wedded life  
Is girt to slavery's measure;  
Then, that more tyrants may be grown,  
Each stocks a nursery of his own,  
And calls each sprout a treasure:—

Oh, you may call that being free,  
But it does not seem free to me.

Oh you who prate of freedom,  
Work once was free for each.  
But comes the boss—his voice is heard,  
And work is past your reach.  
More cash you want. Your savings go  
To pay another's bill.  
And peace you want. Before you know  
You vow, perchance, to kill.  
You once had pay. On freedom bent,  
You serve a chief, nor get a cent,  
Who works you at his will:—  
Oh, you may call that being free,  
But it does not seem free to me.

Oh you who prate of freedom,  
In home, in state, in church,  
If any realm could grant your wish,  
It would not end your search.  
The place where most men like to be  
Is where with most they mingle;  
And such a place none ever see  
So long as they keep single;  
Nay, those, in all they care about,  
Who always leave their neighbors out,  
Find life not worth this jingle:—

Oh, you may call that being free,  
But it does not seem free to me.

—Written for "*The Little Twin Tramps.*"

---

### A FAIRY SONG.

**T**O-NIGHT, to-night, my fairies white,  
The fair sweet air we sail.

But first a tune to tease the moon

That tempts us toward the vale:—

Who cares to go where roses glow

In sheen the moonlight sheds,

And globes of dew are sparkling through

The tent the spider spreads?

Your moonstruck fay may dance away

And crush the rose-leaves all to hay—

Who cares?—I don't!—Do you?

But note you there that maiden fair—

Ha, ha, a dainty bit!

She dreams a dream of love I deem.—

Queen Mab's a wicked wit!

Come, come, a jump; and down we'll thump;

And dance about her heart.

'T will beat and beat—aha, how sweet

The thrills we there shall start!



We 'll tickle her neck, and tickle her toes,  
And tickle her little lips under her nose—  
Who cares?—I don't!—Do you?

And then we 'll huff that mourner gruff,  
Till he unknits his brow.

We 'll whiz and whiz about his phiz,  
And pinch his lips, I vow;

Then hide and seek in hair so sleek,  
And down each wrinkle spare;

And ply his eye, if dry, too dry;  
And slide the lashes there;

And when big drops begin to flow,  
Oh, how we 'll dodge the flood, oh ho!—  
Who cares?—I don't!—Do you?

The moon may keep the earth asleep—  
We 'll twist things ere we go.

The beau shall toss a baby cross,  
The belle shall beat her beau;

The men be boys; and boys the toys  
Of girls that at them scream;

And when they wake, oh, how they 'll shake  
To find it all a dream!

They 'll think of wind and fly and flea;  
But not of you, and not of me—

Who cares?—I don't!—Do you?

—Written for "A Life in Song," I.

## LOVE AND TRUTH.

COME to the love that is coming now,  
Come from the world away;  
Come to the source of joy, and bow,  
Bow to the sweetest sway.  
Find but love for the heart that grieves,  
Love for the work one never leaves,  
Love for the worth that work achieves,  
Love; and woe will away.

Come to the truth that is coming now,  
Come from the world away;  
Come to the source of right, and bow,  
Bow to the wisest sway.  
Find in the way where all is light  
Truth to impel the soul aright,  
Truth to make all that awaits it bright,  
Truth; and doubt will away.

Come to love, and wherever you wend,  
All true life is begun.  
Ever in bliss toward which you tend,  
Joy and the right are one.  
Love—and the heart shall warmer glow;  
Love—and the mind shall brighter grow;  
Love with truth—and the soul shall go  
On to the lasting sun.

Come to the truth, and come as you may,  
All of love is begun.

Whether you feel or think your way,  
Love and the truth are one.

Love is the warmth, and truth the ray;  
Truth is the light, and love the day;  
Come to either, you wend your way  
Under the lasting sun.

—*Idem.*

---

THE WORLD THAT WHIRLS FOREVER.

SEE the world that whirls forever,  
Round and round and weary never,  
Leaving sinning, glory winning  
Through its ever brightening way.

Oh, in worth the deeds of duty  
Rival all the claims of beauty!  
Onward world, with steadfast spinning,  
Learn to turn a perfect day.  
Work cannot go wrong for aye.  
Woes but roll to roll away.

World of faith, the years are dying  
In which clouds about thee lying  
Robe a wondrous waste of sighing,  
Empty throes of vain unrest.

Life, if right, whatever bearing,  
Still for true success preparing,  
Must outwit the wrong's ensnaring.

Faith will find that faith is blest;  
Wrestle through its prayer for rest;  
Dwell with good a constant guest.

World of hope, the stars are o'er thee.  
Dawn is waiting just before thee.

Heaven's own light, thy life invoking,  
Every promise bright reveals.

Fast shall rays that days are sending  
Heaven and earth in one be blending;  
Showing what the storm's dark cloaking,

Tho' with rainbow belt, conceals.  
Night, too, blesses him who feels  
'T is a star in which he kneels.

World of love, the heavens above thee  
Hold the clouds, and can but love thee.  
Though in spring the storm sweep o'er thee,  
April's rain is autumn's gain.

Rock'd by wind and nursed by shower  
Life will grow to leaf and flower;  
Every harvesting before thee

Shows the vintage is but rain  
Turn'd to wine the grapes obtain  
From the floods that fill the plain.

Onward world, desponding never,  
Round and round, yet onward ever,  
On where sense and sorrow sever,  
    Onward move thy mission through.  
Wisest deeds thy safety highten.  
Wisest words thy thoughts enlighten.  
Wisest views thy visions brighten.  
    Holy wings thy way pursue.  
    Heavenly outlines loom in view.  
    Bliss is dawning down the blue.

—*Idem.*

---

FATHER OF OUR SPIRITS, HEAR US.

FATHER of our spirits, hear us,  
    And in mercy now draw near us,  
And with Thy blest presence cheer us,  
    While our spirits look to Thee.  
Thou for whom the stars are burning,  
Do not, Lord, disdain the yearning  
Of the hearts to Thy heart turning,  
    With their wants their only plea.

Long in doubt's dark ways abiding,  
Lord, we need Thy light and guiding,  
Minds to know, and souls confiding  
    In Thy precious truth and love.

When Thine inward voice invited,  
And desires for good incited,  
We have still'd, because we slighted  
All that call'd our souls above.

Even if, forsaking pleasure,  
We have sought for truth like treasure,  
Oft we but would test the measure  
Of what our own strength could do;  
And, beyond our best endeavor,  
Full assurance found we never  
That, if wrong, the old life ever  
Could be cancelled by the new.

Naught is left us, Lord, we feel it,  
Holy writ and reason seal it,  
And all loving lives reveal it,—  
But to cast ourselves on Thee.  
Here we come before Thee kneeling,  
Moved by far too little feeling;  
Yet to grace divine appealing,  
Wilt Thou, Lord, reject our plea?

Nay, our souls for mercy sighing,  
Think of Jesus, living, dying,  
And they know Thy love replying  
Need not wait for worth in us.

With our strength impair'd and sinking,  
From each nobler duty shrinking,  
Lord, we praise Thee most in thinking  
    Thou wilt yet receive us thus.

Thou wilt, Lord, from Thy high station,  
Pardon us, and send salvation,  
Till Thy Spirit's inspiration

    Make us all we ought to be.

Void of good, yet Thou canst make us  
Fill'd with what Thou wilt. Oh, take us,  
Own us, hold us, nor forsake us,

    For our spirits look to Thee.

—*Idem.*, III.

THE END.







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